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FBIS-NES-90-183 CONTENTS *20 September 1990*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Tripartite Summit on Gulf Crisis Held in Rabat 1
    Agenda Previewed *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
    Jordan's King Husayn Arrives *[Amman Radio]* 1
    Algeria's Bendjedid Arrives *[Rabat Radio]* 1
    Summit Begins 19 Sep *[Algiers Radio]* 1
    Arab Initiative Outlined *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 20 Sep]* 1
    Husayn, Delegation To Brief Saddam *[Algiers Radio]* 2
    Hassan Bids Farewell to Leaders *[Rabat Radio]* 3
Papers View Arab Popular Conference in Amman 3
    AL-DUSTUR Hails Meeting *[Amman 15 Sep]* 3
    AL-DUSTUR on Statement *[Amman 18 Sep]* 3
    JORDAN TIMES Comments *[Amman 18 Sep]* 4
Transport Unions To Boycott UK, U.S. Shipping *[Paris International]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

Habash Reacts to U.S. Remarks on Conference *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 20 Sep]* 5
Hawatimah Meets With USSR Envoy to Amman *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 19 Sep]* 5
    Envoy Comments on Statement *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 20 Sep]* 5
PLO Condemns Statements on Settling Palestinians *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
    More on Repatriation Proposal *[Tunis Radio]* 6
Publication of 'Arafat Interview Said 'Incomplete' *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 20 Sep]* 6
Hawatimah on PLO-Jordan Relations, Gulf Crisis *[Amman AL-RA'Y 17 Sep]* 6
PPSF Leader Gawshah Expresses Support for Iraq *[INA]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Paper Views National Islamic Alliance Proposal *[APS]* 10

Egypt

Nation To Cease ACC Participation *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 17 Sep]* 10
Labor Party Members Condemn Leadership on Gulf *[MENA]* 10
Defense Ministry Announces Departure of Troops *[MENA]* 10

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Somali Special Envoy *[Tripoli International]* 11
Tuareg Tribes Pledge Allegiance to Al-Qadhdhafi *[Tripoli Radio]* 11
Al-Qadhdhafi Opens Al-Sahil Natural Gas Refinery *[Tripoli International]* 11

Mauritania

Libya To Strengthen Cooperation in Education *[Dakar PANA]* 11

Morocco

Talks Consider Improving Soviet Commercial Ties *[MAP]* 12

Sudan

Minister Says Foreign Element Aggravates Crisis *[SUNA]* 12
292 Citizens Arriving From Kuwait via Jordan *[SUNA]* 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

UAE, Qatari Papers on Iraqi Offer, Sanctions *[WAKH]* 13

Bahrain

Rafsanjani Letter Stresses Adherence to Blockade *[WAKH]* 13

Kuwait

Prime Minister Denies Seeking Mediation Efforts *[Riyadh Radio]* 13
Five Hundred Iraqi Soldiers Said To Surrender *[Jeddah AL-MADINAH 15 Sep]* 14
Tunisian Source Confirms Embassy Invasion *[Paris International]* 14
Amir Receives U.S. Gulf Forces Commander *[SPA]* 14
Kuwait Airways Relocates Headquarters to Cairo *[Cairo Radio]* 14
Bush Reasoning With Iraqis Called 'Futile' *[London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI 19 Sep]* 15

Oman

Qatari Heir Apparent, Delegation Depart 18 Sep *[Muscat Radio]* 15

Saudi Arabia

Government 'Committed' to Summit, UN Resolutions *[SPA]* 15
Defense Minister Speaks on Situation in Gulf *[Riyadh TV]* 15
Defense Official Receives French Delegation *[Riyadh Radio]* 16
Deputy Minister of Defense on Preparedness *[Riyadh TV]* 16
Belgian Expert To Advise on Chemical Warfare *[AFP]* 17
Visa, Residency Permit Requirements Altered *[SPA]* 17
Scholar Justifies Non-Muslim Aid in Crisis *[Riyadh TV]* 18
Television Extends Broadcasts to Kuwaiti Border *[SPA]* 18

Yemen

Presidential Council, Cabinet Discuss Crisis *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Cabinet Regrets Saudi Measures Against Citizens *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Salih Comments on Political Solution to Crisis *[VOM]* 19
'Arafat Arrives, Calls for International Meeting *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
    Discusses Crisis With Salih *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
    Agrees on Initiative; Departs *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
Salih Receives DPRK Official, Message *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
DFLP Official Holds Talks in Sanaa, Departs *[Sanaa Radio]* 20

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Records Message to Americans *[INA]* 21
Officials Threaten Retaliation for U.S. Attack 21
    'Will Strike' U.S. Interests *[Amman Radio]* 21
    'All Oil Wells' in Danger *[PETRA-JNA]* 21
'Zionist Drones' Reportedly Active in Gulf Area *[INA]* 21
Transport Workers To Boycott U.S., UK Ships *[INA]* 21
Foreign Women, Children Leave Baghdad 19 Sep *[INA]* 22

National Aircraft Leaves Baghdad for London *[AFP]* 22
Japanese Legislator Seeks To Free Hostages *[Tokyo KYODO]* 22
    Government Considers Release *[Tokyo KYODO]* 22
Papers Comment on 16 Sep Bush Message *[AL-THAWRAH 17 Sep, etc.]* 22
Writer Rebuts Points of Bush Television Message *[AL-QADISIYAH 17 Sep]* 24
Bush Fails To Understand 'Iraqi Mentality' *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 17 Sep]* 25
Paper Derides U.S. Criticism of Amman Meeting *[INA]* 25
Kurdish Leader on Efforts To Unite Opposition *[AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI 14 Sep]* 26
Resident Arabs Given Deadline To Return *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 26
RCC Merges Kuwait Airways, Iraqi Airways *[AL-QADISIYAH 17 Sep]* 26
Journalists March to U.S. Embassy, Deliver Memo *[INA]* 27
Envoy Meets Tariq 'Aziz; Work Group Established *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 27

ISRAEL

'Ivri Says Iraqi Nuclear Power Unacceptable *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Arens Views Regional Events, Ties With U.S. *[THE JERUSALEM POST 19 Sep]* 28
Arens Comments on Meeting in U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Govrin Optimistic on Future Soviet Relations *[HA'ARETZ 19 Sep]* 31
Iraq Forcing Kuwaitis Out of Kuwait *[Jerusalem International]* 31
Gulf States' Support of Palestinians 'Falsehood' *[AL-FAJR 15 Sep]* 31
Moda'i Leaves For Talks With IMF, U.S, EC *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Population, Immigration Increase at High Level *[HA'ARETZ 19 Sep]* 32

JORDAN

Minister Details Country's Economic Situation *[AL-RA'Y 20 Sep]* 33
Editorial on 'Heavy Price' for Dugan's Statement *[AL-RA'Y 19 Sep]* 36
Minister Denounces U.S. Criticism of Conference *[JORDAN TIMES 20-21 Sep]* 37
Refugee Aid Amounts to $57 Million *[AFP]* 37
'Arafat Comments on Arab Solution to Crisis *[Amman TV]* 38
    Meets With Hasan, Departs *[Amman Radio]* 38
Official Says Morocco Has Ideas on Gulf Crisis *[AL-DUSTUR 20 Sep]* 38

LEBANON

Amal's Al-Musawi on Possible Hostage Release *[RFL]* 39
    Comments on Foreign Forces *[Voice of Lebanon]* 39
Arab League's Ibrahimi Meets With Al-Baz *[RFL]* 39
Junblatt Advocates Single Electoral Constituency *[VOM]* 39
Two Phalangists Released From Prison by Syria *[VOL]* 40
Hizballah Responds to Amal Accusation *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
'Awn Officers, Soldiers Join Lahhud Command *[VOL]* 40
'Awn Units Attack Areas in East Beirut 20 Sep *[VOL]* 40
Israelis Reinforce Position in Border Zone *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
Saudi Arabia Provides $100 Million in Aid *[RFL]* 41
Shaykh Sha'ban Critical of Gulf Leaders *[AL-SAFIR 18 Sep]* 41

SYRIA

Al-Asad Spokesman Views U.S. Cooperation *[Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG 19 Sep]* 42
Nation Vows Response to Saudi Troop Requests *[Paris LE MONDE 19 Sep]* 42

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Party Activists in Kabul *[BAKHTAR]* 44
Najibullah Meets UN Official on Reconciliation *[BAKHTAR]* 44

India

Nationals Advised Against Land Route to Jordan *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Delhi TV Reports Refugees' Arrival From Sindh 45
Spokesman Defends Stance on UN Sanctions *[AFP]* 45
Singh Briefs Commanders on Ties With Neighbors *[Delhi Radio]* 46

Iran

Foreign Minister Reportedly To Visit Baghdad *[Belgrade Radio]* 46
Agreement Made With Iraq on Oil Export to India *[Flag of Freedom Radio]* 46
Omani Official Gives Farewell Statement on Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Soviet Minister Belonogov Discusses Gulf Crisis *[Tehran International]* 47
Possible Dispatch of Troops to Gulf Denied *[IRNA]* 47
President Speaks at Annual IRGC Conference 47
    Discusses Crisis, POW's *[Tehran Radio]* 47
    Khamene'i Message to Commanders *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Editorial Terms U.S. Gulf Policy 'Extortion' *[RESALAT 2 Sep]* 49
Editorial Views Need for Gulf Stability *[TEHRAN TIMES 8 Sep]* 49
Commentary Warns People of Gulf 'Catastrophe' *[Flag of Freedom Radio]* 50
Editorial Calls for Aid in Refugees' Upkeep *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 4 Sep]* 50
Green Berets to Launch Maneuvers at Karaj Dam *[IRNA]* 51
Air Force Stages Tehran Training Flight *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Trade Minister Departs on African Tour *[IRNA]* 51
Nurbakhsh Leaves for IMF, World Bank Meeting *[IRNA]* 51
Economic Council Lifts Ban on Non-Oil Exports *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Heavy Industries Ministry Lifts Imports Ban *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Agriculture Minister Cited on Grain Prices *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Irish Agriculture Minister Arrives in Tehran *[IRNA]* 52
Armed Forces To Parade for Holy Defense Week *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Commentary Urges Addict Rehabilitation Centers *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Further Smugglers Arrested; Narcotics Seized *[IRNA]* 53
*New Police Department Appointments Announced *[London KEYHAN 30 Aug]* 53
*Further Statistics on Housing, Cost of Living *[London KEYHAN 30 Aug]* 53
*Islamic Revolution Guards Destroy Shanties *[London KEYHAN 30 Aug]* 54
*ABRAR Report on 18 Jul Majles Session *[19 Jul]* 54
*Exchange of Prisoners Reportedly Faces Hurdle *[London KEYHAN 30 Aug]* 56

Pakistan

Government 'Ready' To Send More Troops to Gulf *[AFP]* 57
Iraq Releases Nationals Held for Illegal Entry *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
U.S. Ambassador Calls on President, Premier *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR 19 Sep *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
President Khan Departs Islamabad for Beijing *[Islamabad International]* 58
Veteran Sindh Political Leader Syed Released *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Cabinet Orders Energy Conservation Measures *[Islamabad Radio]* 59

Sri Lanka

Colombo Reviews Operations Against LTTE *[Colombo International]* 59
Security Forces Overrun LTTE Bases in East *[Colombo International]* 59
Suspected Tamil Rebels Kill 40 Sinhalese *[AFP]* 59

Inter-Arab Affairs

Tripartite Summit on Gulf Crisis Held in Rabat

Agenda Previewed

JN1909142090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Dispatch by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn, Moroccan King Hassan II, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid will meet in Rabat today and tomorrow in a tripartite summit to devise an Arab formula to settle the Gulf crisis.

An informed source has told our radio that the three leaders are searching for a comprehensive agreement that guarantees Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait in return for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and a start to the peace process in the Middle East.

The source explained that the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait will take place immediately following the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Gulf, or when a fixed timetable is set for this withdrawal. The peace process in the Middle East, moreover, should begin by a call for an international conference through which all regional disputes, including the Palestine question and the Lebanese issue, can be settled.

This summit will reaffirm that some Arab countries' objection to the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf does not mean that these countries approve of the Iraqi intervention in Kuwait, according to the source who asserted that the matter is related to finding a formula within an Arab context that will meet international support. He added that the mechanism of that formula will focus on a dual withdrawal, Iraq from Kuwait and the foreign forces from the Arabian peninsula, and on starting the peace process in the Middle East.

According to the same source, Iraq is still clinging to the initiative presented by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August which calls for an all-inclusive settlement of all Mideast issues.

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives

JN1909154290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Rabat this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom of Morocco, during which his majesty will hold talks with His Majesty Moroccan King Hassan II and His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The talks will deal with the Gulf crisis and finding an Arab formula to resolve it and avert its dangers.

His majesty was accorded an official welcome. King Hassan II led senior Moroccan officials who received him. His majesty inspected the guards of honor, while the Jordanian and Moroccan royal anthems were played, and a 21-gun-salute was observed to greet His Majesty King Husayn.

His majesty is accompanied by the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Algeria's Bendjedid Arrives

LD1909165490 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, of Jordan, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid this afternoon arrived in Morocco at the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II. [passage omitted]

Summit Begins 19 Sep

LD1909215790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A tripartite summit, which brings together President Chadli Bendjedid and the Moroccan and Jordanian kings, will be held in Rabat this evening. The details are in a report from our special reporter Ali Abboud:

[Abboud] Within the framework of the Arab efforts being made to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, with no foreign solution, the talks between President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic; Moroccan sovereign King Hassan II; and Jordanian sovereign, King Husayn, began in Rabat this evening a tripartite summit meeting.

It is being reported in Arab circles here in Rabat that the three leaders are trying to find a formula for a common move in order to defuse confrontation in the Gulf region, particularly after the successive developments imposed by the crisis on the Arab and international arenas as well as the UN-imposed blockade on Iraq.

Sources close to the summit say that President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, will try with Moroccan sovereign King Hassan II and Jordan's King Husayn to come up with close ideas for finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and preventing the outbreak of a destructive war in the region.

The foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco, and Jordan will meet this evening to prepare the expected meeting tonight between President Chadli Bendjedid and the Moroccan and Jordanian kings. [passage omitted]

Arab Initiative Outlined

JN2009100490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 90 pp 1, 14

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Rabat—AL-DUSTUR has learned from high-level sources in Rabat that the tripartite summit comprising His Majesty King Husayn, His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, and Algerian President Chadli

Bendjedid aims to formulate an urgent Arab initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis following a series of intensive political contacts held with Arab and European capitals and permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Information suggests that His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco is the one who is holding contacts with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, as well as U.S. President George Bush to ensure the success of the Arab initiative that aims to rule out the military solution and protect Arab national security.

At the same time, His Majesty King Husayn is holding contacts with influential parties in West Europe in an attempt to convince them to adopt the Arab initiative that will result from the tripartite summit and to brief the UN Security Council on it. The UN secretary-general will contact the parties concerned with the conflict in the Arabian Gulf. Mr. Perez de Cuellar is scheduled to begin a tour in the near future.

On his part, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who represents the Arab Maghreb Union in the summit, will carry special weight. This is because the Arab Maghreb Union's positions on the Gulf crisis are still united and because some of the Arab Maghreb states are participating in the multinational force in the Arabian peninsula.

The same sources stressed that Ahmed Bensouda, His Majesty King Hassan's special representative, obtained during his recent visit to Baghdad reassurances from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn regarding a just solution to the Kuwait issue and that he would not threaten any Gulf state. He said waving Iraqi threats at regional states is a cover for bringing in foreign troops to the region. Bensouda informed the Moroccan monarch that President Saddam Husayn showed a great response to the Moroccan mediation and clear flexibility in the Iraqi position. This has encouraged the Moroccan monarch to urgently call for holding the tripartite summit in Rabat.

The sources pointed out that urgent contacts were recently held between Rabat and Washington, and that these contacts resulted in initial U.S. approval—shown by U.S. President Bush's message to the Moroccan leadership—of the Arab diplomatic and political action. Washington was informed the day before yesterday of the convening of the tripartite summit and, according to the sources, it welcomed the move.

These sources told AL-DUSTUR that His Majesty King Husayn will propose to the summit the question of combining Arab and international solutions, and that there are signs and assurances that all parties will agree to combine the Arab and international solutions according to the "Cambodian model," which calls for the participation of all parties concerned and the UN Security Council five permanent members, as well as other parties that have an influence on the political solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Gulf arena is expected to witness major activity after the tripartite summit. The capitals of the UN Security Council permanent member states and the UN secretary-general will be informed of its results, and a working team will be set up to mediate with all parties.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that the new Arab initiative has now been approved by nine Arab states. Diplomatic contacts have also convinced the nine states of the need for diplomatic action. The leaders attending the tripartite summit were mandated to act on behalf of those states to make a swift move to spare the region the ghost of war, which is being prepared now in the Arabian peninsula. Sources close to the summit expect Arab approval of this initiative to grow to 12 states. This shows that the states in the region insist on a political solution.

AL-DUSTUR has learned from information leaked about the draft of the new Arab initiative that it calls for the following:

—Transferring the Bubiyan and Warbah islands and the al-Rumaylah area to Iraqi sovereignty, according to special arrangements.
—Securing the establishment of an Iraqi-Kuwaiti relationship similar, to some extent, to that which exists now between Syria and Lebanon.
—The withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Arabian peninsula and fixing a date for the actual withdrawal.
—The withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait while maintaining the special arrangement between Iraq and Kuwait.
—Securing Iraq's right to navigation in Kuwaiti deep waters.
—No return of the ruling family to Kuwait. The Kuwaiti people themselves will determine the form of government.
—Discussing the Middle East and the Palestine question and mobilizing political efforts immediately to find a solution after the Gulf crisis is solved.

It is worth mentioning that this formula will be subject to alteration, deletion, and addition, depending on the outcome of negotiations which will be held with all parties concerned.

Husayn, Delegation To Brief Saddam

LD2009065890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Reporter] Jamil 'Ali Adloul reports on the meeting of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Moroccan King Hassan II, and Jordanian King Husayn in Rabat on 19 September]

[Text] The second session of talks between President Chadli Bendjedid, the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, and [Jordanian] King Husayn, began late yesterday, 19 September, at the Shkirat Palace in Rabat.

The first session of talks had taken place yesterday, at President Chadli Bendjedid's residence as soon as the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, arrived. Sources close to the summit say that Arab efforts will continue in an intensive manner in order to find an acceptable settlement and an Arab solution of the Gulf crisis and, thereby, contain the crisis and avoid a destructive war in the region—especially in the wake of the series of developments prompted at the Arab and at international levels by developments in the region; the threats facing Iraq from the United States and its Western allies; and the UN Security Council resolutions, including the sea blockade.

The same sources said that, as soon as the proceedings of the tripartite summit end, the Algerian and Moroccan foreign ministers will accompany the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, on a visit to Baghdad in order to present to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn the thoughts, views, and expectations arrived at by President Chadli Bendjedid, and the Moroccan and Jordanian monarchs, King Hassan II and King Husayn, concerning the search for an Arab solution of the Gulf crisis, one which avoids any foreign (?presence).

Hassan Bids Farewell to Leaders

LD2009084690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II yesterday [19 September] evening at the Royal Palace in Skhirat received His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan and the Algerian President, Chadli Bendjedid, and held talks with them that lasted around two hours. [passage omitted]

After the banquet His Majesty King Hassan II, flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, bade farewell to His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Papers View Arab Popular Conference in Amman

AL-DUSTUR Hails Meeting

JN1809080490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
15 Sep 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Arab People's Summit"]

[Text] A group of knights representing the Arab and Islamic nation are meeting today on the soil of Jordan, the land of mobilization and deployment [al-hashd wa al-rabt]. They have chosen Jordan, the symbol of their pan-Arab and Islamic sentiments, to assert one fact which the enemies of the Arab nation have tried for a long time to obliterate; namely, that the solution must be Arab and that there is no place on this chaste soil for the forces of international plunder, whose lust and hatred for us knows no limit.

Today, Jordan also embraces with full pride and competence the Arab Popular Forces Conference, which has chosen Jordan, a pan-Arab democratic oasis, as venue for discussing a major Arab issue in these difficult circumstances.

The arrival of the representatives of pan-Arab and Islamic action and their choice of Amman as venue for their meetings is sincere recognition of Jordan's role as a pivot for repulsing the aggression, which is aimed at humiliating the Arab people and subjugating the Islamic nation.

The Arab people's summit, which is seeking a role for itself and striving to find mechanisms for joint action, is a medal on the chest of every Jordanian and an Arab popular recognition that Jordan, a true pan-Arab forum, today represents the vanguard of the pan-Arab current against the invaders who have violated our land and seized our resources.

Indeed, the convocation of the Arab people's summit in Jordan, which King Husayn has moulded into a solid steel pillar and a sword of faith, is honest testimony that our country is worthy of democracy and that our Hashemite leader, who symbolizes the Jordanians' full determination and sense of pan-Arab pride and holds with a firm grip the sword of pan-Arab honor, is the person most deserving to carry this sword ever since swords were invented and ever since the Hashemites devoted their lives to the pan-Arab cause.

Welcome to the land of hospitality and the sword. Welcome to those who have come forth to remedy their nation's bleeding wound and declared with great honor: No to the invaders and yes to confrontation.

How great this Jordan is by its people and leadership! Were it not for the glorious stand it has adopted voluntarily, and were it not also for the outstanding solid pan-Arab solidarity which has been demonstrated spontaneously, we would have been downcast. God forbid, we will not be downcast. We will not let the nation down or allow the enemies to pick on the delight of our eye and the vanguard of our confrontation—the glorious Iraq of the Arabs.

King Husayn announced the Arab solution from the moment the storm began to cast its dark clouds in our sky. However, that solution was temporarily suppressed by the loud noise created by the western media and those benefiting from this pan-Arab crisis in their attempt to hide a fact of life, which has been confirmed by every incident in our long history that is full of glories and sacrifices, that the invaders will be uprooted from this nation, which God has made the best nation and which will continue to exist in the present and the future.

AL-DUSTUR on Statement

JN1809113390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
18 Sep 90 p 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Arab Masses' Summit"]

[Text] The statement issued by the popular Arab parties and forces which met on the land of assembly and union for three consecutive days, emerged as an honest expression of the deepest feelings of fury smoldering in the hearts of the Arab masses over the desecration of the holy shrines, the occupation of the land, and the strongest determination in the souls of the sons of this great homeland to fight alongside Iraq in its great pan-Arab battle in defense of the present and future of the Arabs.

The representatives of the popular Arab parties believe, and rightly so, that the U.S. colonialist invasion of a part of our Arab homeland is nothing but a link in the chain of the historic struggle between this nation and the colonialist West. They also believe that the siege imposed on Iraq is nothing more than a siege imposed on the plan for a new Arab order led capably and effectively by the Iraqi people.

Therefore, the U.S. conspiracy's objective is clearly to return the Arab homeland to the dark ages of direct colonialism. In addition, the Atlantic troops streaming into the Gulf and peninsula indicate that the Western alliance intends to stay there a long time to steal Arab oil and turn back the hands of Arab time.

Had the United States not decided to turn the Gulf crisis into a pretext to invade the region, it would have been possible at an early stage to reach a solution to the crisis within the Arab fold—especially since real steps had been taken for such a solution before Washington decided to thwart those who initiated it.

It would also have been possible then to reach a solution to the emerging Gulf crisis through the draft solution proposed by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August, which stipulates linking the Gulf crisis to the Palestine question, as well as to other issues on which the UN Security Council took similar resolutions.

However, the new crusaders, who had already readied their equipment to occupy the Gulf and peninsula, proceeded in their military buildup operation, unparalleled since the end of World War II, with the goal of striking at anything Iraq represents, such as pan-Arab aspirations and all the new contents that the Iraqi military capabilities manifest which could put a conclusive end to military superiority over the Arabs.

In view of all this it was natural that the Arab people's summit announce from Amman its complete siding with fraternal Iraq and call the sons of this nation to take action, each according to his potential and location, to implement this stand through all possible practical and tangible steps they can take which contribute toward assisting the pan-Arab battle with inexhaustible popular resources, including all forms of participation, solidarity, and support.

JORDAN TIMES Comments

JN1809124890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Sep 90 p 4

[Editorial: We, The People"]

[Text] The Arab States are divided into three groups over the conflict in the Gulf. There is Iraq, subjected to military pressure and total economic embargo, there is the 12 Arab countries that stand behind the U.S. in demanding Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, and there is the nine Arab countries that oppose Western military deployment and which call for an Arab solution to the crisis.

And there is the Arab people all over the Arab World, who, just on the eve of the Gulf crisis, were battling for more democracy and human rights. These people's battle was of course dealt a blow by foreign intervention in the crisis. Those who had already gained some democratic ground immediately turned their attention and strength to rejection of foreign intervention. Those who had not gained any democratic ground had to cover under their governments' calls for defence of "national security." [sentence as published]

The Amman conference that ended yesterday represented most of the first group and only a few of the second. Moroccans and Syrians were among the few. Egyptian political leaders were barred by the Egyptian authorities from attending the conference; and of course no one expected any Saudi or Gulf nationals to attend.

To a large extent, the conference represented the pulse of the Arab Nation in regard to the Gulf crisis. The participants, who represented political parties, trade and professional unions, Islamists and nationalists, Christians and Muslims, and among others Palestinian leaders, passed a number of resolutions that represented the full spectrum of the Arab masses' reaction to the Gulf crisis. The resolutions ranged from calls for a holy war against the Americans to an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. Rhetorics aside, the Arab people, as the Amman conference has demonstrated, are eager to see a peaceful solution, not only to the Gulf conflict but to all the region's crises.

The Arab people, for decades striving for better political, economic and social life, feel extremely desperate that Western intervention in the region will lead to a devastating war and to a new era of Western colonialism.

As far as the Arab masses are concerned, Iraq, regardless of all Western claims and charges, represents a modern regional power that could counterbalance Israel and ensure the Arabs a fair deal with the West. At the moment the Arab masses feel strongly against any attempt under the guise of international law to starve the Iraqi people. Most importantly the Arab people and popular Arab leaders want a solution within the Arab context.

A solution imposed from the outside, with the blessing of some Arab leaders, will not hold. The Arab people, as the resolutions of their conference yesterday show, will resort to every single action called for during the conference, including suicide attacks to fend off aggression on Iraq. Then all the calls for reason and peace that emanate from Amman at the moment will have fallen on deaf ears. And, then, regret will only be stupid and ludicrous.

Transport Unions To Boycott UK, U.S. Shipping

LD1909200890 Paris International Service in French 2003 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpt] In protest against the embargo imposed on Iraq, the emergency Executive Council of the Arab Workers Union has decided to boycott the unloading of U.S. and British ships and planes. This decision was made in Tunis. Reporter Rida Boughezi reports:

The Arab Transport Trade Union decision will come into effect on 1 October next. It stupulates a periodic and spaced boycott of the loading and unloading of ships and planes belonging to countries militarily present in the Gulf. In a communique issued at the end of its session in Tunis, the Executive Council of the Arab Workers Union stresses that this measure is a warning and that it will be followed by a complete and systematic boycott against the countries of the multinational force should there be a military attack against Iraq. The council also appealed to Arab peoples to boycott all products and goods originating from the United States. On Monday [17 September], the Tunisian Workers General Union observed a four-hour boycott of U.S. and British ships and planes. This operation had only a symbolic aspect as no ship or plane from these countries was expected in Tunis that day. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Habash Reacts to U.S. Remarks on Conference

JN2009110890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Sep 90 Second Edition p 4

[Text] Replying to the U.S. State Department's remarks on the convocation of the Arab Popular Forces Conference in Amman and on the participation in it of Dr. George Habash, secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Dr. George Habash stated the following:

This U.S. attitude is blatant and impudent interference in the affairs of another country enjoying full sovereignty over its territory. It is also a rejected attempt by the U.S. Administration to impose itself as an international policeman that dictates what others should do. This attitude also echoes the language of threats which has become more than ever before an official policy adopted by the U.S. Administration in its international relations.

Dr. Habash added: We consider the U.S. Administration's resentment and anger over the convocation of the Arab Popular Forces conference cogent proof of its success. It also reflects the U.S. Administration's apprehension that it might be the beginning of the road to mobilizing, organizing, and unifying the popular Arab energies for the sake of confronting the U.S.-Atlantic invasion, supporting Iraq, and backing the glorious Palestinian intifadah.

Concluding, Dr. Habash said: We in the PFLP condemn this new U.S. stance which we believe reveals that the U.S. Administration's bragging about human rights, international legitimacy, and democracy is only a false mask that falls off in any test.

Hawatimah Meets With USSR Envoy to Amman

JN1909111190 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Sep 90 Second Edition p 11

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], met for the second time here yesterday with Mr. Yuriy Gryadunov, the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

A spokesman of the DFLP said an extensive discussion took place on the current political situation in the Middle East region and the Gulf crisis, and that viewpoints were in agreement on the need to do everything possible to prevent the outbreak of war and to stop U.S. and NATO hostilities against Iraq, because war damage would be great and catastrophic.

The two sides affirmed the need for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces as a prelude to the search for an inter-Arab political solution linking the resolution of the Gulf crisis with the resolution of the Palestine question within the framework of an expanded international conference attended by all the states of the region.

Envoy Comments on Statement

JN2009055790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 90 p 18

[Text] Amman, PETRA—Yuriy Gryadunov, Soviet ambassador in Amman, has commented on the statement made by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] spokesman which was published yesterday after his meeting with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah. Gryadunov said the paragraph referring to the two sides' affirmation of the need for a withdrawal of U.S. forces as a prelude to the search for an inter-Arab political solution to the Gulf crisis is incorrect.

PLO Condemns Statements on Settling Palestinians

JN1909184090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] At a news conference today, Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said that the nine Western European Union foreign ministers who met in Paris have received information that Iraq intends to settle Palestinians in Kuwait. He added: We received this information with some reservations. However, the Belgian minister did not rule out that, for political reasons, Iraq would offer part of Kuwait to the Palestinians because Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn is playing the Palestinian card.

The PLO vehemently denounced the Belgian foreign minister's statements through Bassam Abu Sharif. Bassam Abu

Sharif said that such statements, in addition to being tendentious, also invite ridicule. He added: The Palestinians have rejected and continue to reject any subsitute for their homeland, Palestine, and for its capital of Jerusalem. Bassam Abu Sharif said that the PLO will continue to increase resistance to the Israeli occupation until the last Israeli soldier leaves Palestinian territories.

Abu Sharif added: We expect Mr. Eyskens and his European colleagues to maintain their principles and take practical steps to compel Israel to end its occupation of Palestine.

More on Repatriation Proposal

LD1909225690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The PLO has strongly condemned statements by the Belgian foreign minister at a press conference in Brussels yesterday, in which he referred to a scheme to repatriate the Palestinians and give them a part of Kuwait.

Bassam Abu Sharif, special advisor to President Yasir 'Arafat, said: The Palestinians reject and will always reject all the schemes to repatriate them in various places, and they also reject all the attempts, in which some European countries have participated, to persuade them to be repatriated to various countries.

He added: The Palestinians do not accept an alternative to their country Palestine and its capital Jerusalem, and will continue to resist the Israeli occupation until the end. At the same time, the Palestinians will continue to work to find a just political solution which will lead to comprehensive stability and peace in the region.

Publication of 'Arafat Interview Said 'Incomplete'

JN2009054390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
20 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—An official Palestinian spokesman yesterday stated the following:

Certain papers have carried incomplete versions of an interview granted by Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, to John Wallach on the Gulf crisis. We would like to point out that what has been published is an imprecise and incomplete part of a lengthy interview granted by the president. We also stress that the Palestinian position is: A comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem as a whole based on the indivisible international legitimacy.

Hawatimah on PLO-Jordan Relations, Gulf Crisis

JN1909110590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
17 Sep 90 p 10

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary-general of the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] [DFLP], has told AL-RA'Y that it is high time to start a concrete, in-depth dialogue between the PLO and Jordan so as to establish Palestinian-Jordanian relations on constant, stable bases. He said these relations should be in harmony with the decisions adopted by our Palestine National Council since 1974, which affirm that the relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples is special and distinguished, by virtue of historical and brotherly interdependence and the wide human, social, economic, and spiritual interaction which has bound the two peoples throughout long decades, and by virtue of the 1983 decision of our Palestine National Council on the need for confederation between the independent Palestinian state and Jordan.

Hawatimah added: You should also consider that developments of the joint national and pan-Arab struggle against the occupation and Israeli expansionism, and the drift of the Gulf crisis constitute wide joint groundwork in the struggle to defend our people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state. Add to this brave Jordan's right to defend its national soil, and the framework of working for a balanced peace in the Middle East, the only road to which is a UN-sponsored international conference with the participation of the five superpowers and all the parties of the Middle East conflict, including the PLO and Jordan.

Furthermore, Hawatimah said: The climate provided by the joint position toward the intervention of foreign forces in the Gulf and the possibilities of spreading the fire of war in the Middle East allow for wide joint political coordination to launch a political Arab initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis and an international initiative to link the Gulf crisis and the Middle East crisis.

He added that the ongoing democratic transformations and party, intellectual, and political pluralism in the country clearly point out that the brave Jordanian people are today reaping the fruit of a long struggle for a free, honorable life.

Hawatimah added: These transformations provide an encouraging model for all Arab peoples who are struggling to win democracy in their countries. He also said that under the banner of these transformations, the great national unity would be strengthened among the ranks of the people in the various strata and among the various streams. This would add to the peoples' steadfastness in the face of the enemy, and enable them to search for solutions to the difficult social and economic problems of their countries.

Hawatimah went on to say: Our people, the intifadah, and the PLO note with appreciation the wisdom of the country's leadership and its response to the people's right to democracy and pluralism, and respect for men's rights. Legislative and executive authority quarters point out that the door is now open to passing laws, legislating democratic rights, and establishing democratic institutions under the umbrella of the constitution.

Every country views matters with a double standard and the selectivity of the decisions of international legitimacy, he said. Let the U.S. Administration's hypocrisy and maneuvers be fully exposed to the whole world—the Administration which has brushed aside Security Council resolutions, rejected any sanctions against Israel, hastened to impose sanctions on Iraq, and attempted to drag the Security Council members into the arena of U.S. colonial policy in the Gulf.

Hawatimah said: The brave intifadah of our people and the Gulf crisis have created a popular political climate throughout the Arab homeland and a world climate that opens broad horizons to awaken the movement of the Arab people toward supporting the intifadah, besieging the Zionist occupiers, and mobilizing the people's potentials to champion Iraq in its battle against the American invaders and the Atlantic forces. The door is open for mobilizing all national, pan-Arab, democratic, political, and religious forces within the framework of national fronts throughout the Arab states to form a solid massive shield in the face of aggression, and activate the Arab man on the street under the slogan—O Zionists, leave the land of the occupied State of Palestine; O American aggressors, hands off Iraq. A call should be made to all forces of democracy and peace in the world to link the Gulf crisis with the Palestine question, to make Washington and Tel Aviv accept the idea of an expanded international conference that links the Gulf with Palestine, to reach a comprehensive and balanced peace throughout the Middle East and the Gulf on the basis of the people's right to self-determination, and to expel the foreign forces and the Zionist invaders.

Nayif Hawatimah said: We in the DFLP clearly see that a new map of the Arab countries is being drawn; it is the second Suez map that is printed in 1990 and stamped with the stamp of the people. This map is contrary to the plan to repeat the 1967 war, which Washington is now preparing. Washington is trying to impose capitulatory solutions over the entire region so that it will become an American oil field at the hands of new colonialist alliances and the long, expansionist Israeli hand as a result of the large-scale waves of Jewish immigrants threatening all our people in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza, as well as the neighboring Arab states.

He added: We in the DFLP clearly see that if the invasion forces embark on a war and aggression against Iraq, the American imperialism will pay the price. And as the Suez war in 1956 was the beginning of the end of the British and French empires in our Arab countries and Africa, the new war will be the beginning of the end of the American empire in the Arab countries and around them. He said what is important now is to strengthen, develop, and support the intifadah materially and politically as well as to reinforce Jordan's steadfastness and the resolve of the Arab masses to paralyze the hand of the American aggressor against Iraq and the Gulf region.

Hawatimah said that the initiative of the Jordanian Democratic Unionist Alliance to hold the Arab Popular Forces Conference is a big step forward on the path to uniting all the national and religious forces in a unified front that will contribute to safeguarding the defense of the homeland, entrenching national unity, and setting the democratic example for all Arab peoples so that they will move toward building their national and popular fronts in their countries on the basis of the political announcement expected to be issued by the popular forces conference now being held in Amman. The political statement will focus on the intifadah, supporting Iraq, reinforcing Jordan's steadfastness, exerting continuous popular pressure to build the eastern front in accordance with the call of the Jordanian Parliament to paralyze the hand of the American aggressor and tear away the cover which the Cairo summit put on foreign interference, and compensating for the absence of the Egyptian front because Egypt is still tied by the shackles of Camp David and its policy.

He added that a new dawn will appear in the life and fate of the region. We now say that daylight follows darkness and the path of the people and will for liberation, democracy, and self-determination will triumph. The land and oil belong to the people, and the invaders will not pass.

Hawatimah said: The Arabization of the Gulf crisis has its rules and the internationalization of this crisis is totally something else. Arabization will open the door to a solution under the Arab umbrella that will fulfill the legitimate interests of the peoples in the Gulf and will respond to the special and unique relationship between Iraq and the Gulf states. We should oppose the plans by the United States and Saudi Arabia which seek to restrict the special relationship only between Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries to keep the Gulf a U.S. oil lake, and which insist on isolating Iraq from the Gulf and depriving it of the chance of becoming a littoral Gulf state that enjoys special and unique relations with the Gulf countries. This requires preventing Saudi Arabia and the United States from transforming the Gulf Cooperation Council into an axis that will serve the United States and its oil policies, as well as its Middle East policy.

Hawatimah added: We are working within the framework of the Palestinian leadership to formulate a balanced Palestinian political initiative to settle the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework on the basis of the principles I have mentioned, and to move from that point to one of holding a dialogue with the eight Arab countries which opposed the Cairo summit resolutions which have become a cover for the foreign forces' interference. From this premise we believe that the first step in this dialogue should be between the PLO and Jordan, to be followed by the other seven countries for the formulation of a nine-way Arab initiative that we will submit to Arab and international public opinion, the other Arab countries, and the world countries as a sign of our insistence on an Arab solution. All this is on condition that foreign and Atlantic forces will leave the [Arabian] Peninsula and the Gulf to make the discussion of an Arab solution possible away from the sword of U.S. terrorism and the U.S. threat to launch an aggression against Iraq.

Thus, we will enhance the role of the Arab peoples by having them daily bring pressure to bear on the governments which had agreed to the divisive Cairo summit resolutions which harm the supreme Arab interests, and armed with the nine-way Arab initiative the Arab peoples will step up their pressure on the axis formed by the Cairo summit countries to have them retract the Cairo summit resolutions and refrain from continuing to provide a cover for the U.S. forces, and to go back and begin studying a solution to the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework.

We are all aware of the dramatic speech Mubarak delivered on the night of 9 August in which he depicted the situation as catastrophic and in which he called for the Cairo summit where all those attending found themselves discussing fabricated resolutions prepared beforehand in agreement with Washington. The objective of all this was to provide a cover for the U.S. troop mobilization and the U.S. vessels in preparation for an aggression against Iraq.

We have information showing that the Camp David regime and Saudi Arabia are daily calling on the U.S. Administration to act quickly and attack Iraq.

A Palestinian-Arab initiative by the nine countries which opposed the divisive Cairo summit resolutions can mobilize the masses to wage the heroic struggle and force their governments to go back on the Cairo summit resolutions, stop providing a cover for the U.S. forces, and give a chance to the Arab solution following the departure of the U.S. forces.

This is a complicated and protracted battle. We are very well aware that Washington insists on internationalizing the crisis and rejects Arabizing it. That is why it began to dispatch its forces to the Peninsula and the Gulf from 2 August, because U.S. plans to commit aggression against Iraq have been prepared since early July and have as their objective the destruction of Iraq's economic and military potential.

Washington's insistence on internationalizing the Gulf crisis makes us insist on a new political initiative that links the Gulf crisis to our national Palestinian cause to bring the victory of the intifadah closer. In light of this, we should crystallize a nine-member initiative to present it to all world states—an initiative that insists on holding an expanded international conference to include all parties to the conflict, foremost of which is the PLO, and all the world states that have interests in the Gulf and the Middle East region. This is to prevent Washington from dealing unilaterally with the region's affairs and to avert the region's being confined to the UN Security Council's five permanent member states. Our objective is to establish a balanced, comprehensive peace in the Middle East and in the Gulf which would secure our people's right to self-determination; to end occupation; and to establish the institutions of the State of Palestine on our national soil in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip; and which would secure the refugees' right to repatriation in accordance with the UN resolutions. Our objective is also to establish peace among all the region's states, to resolve the oil problem in harmony with the Arab peoples' interests in development and in the just distribution of oil wealth among the Arab states, and to secure the legitimate interests of all the states of the world and to continue to supply them with energy on a balanced basis.

Hawatimah added: It is a golden opportunity to link the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question together as long as Washington insists on internationalizing the Gulf crisis. Therefore, we want the internationalization process to be comprehensive. We should base the new Arab initiative on the nine Arab states on the elements of the Iraqi initiative and the Soviet and French proposals calling for linking the Gulf and the Middle East crises. By doing so, we will paralyze the hands of the aggressors and break the foreign states' unanimity regarding the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis. At the same time, we will put all the foreign states in a narrow corner and force them to respect the indivisible resolutions of international legitimacy.

He added: He who is concerned about the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis must also be concerned about implementation of the most serious UN Security Council and UN resolutions on the Israeli occupation of our country, which were issued 23 years ago. He said that this would pave the way for us to call on the Soviet Union, Europe, France, and the PRC to present a new draft resolution to the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against Israel, that has been refusing to implement the UN Security Council resolutions for 23 years. This will expose to the whole world the hypocrisy of any state that uses double standards or adopts a selective approach on the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the flagrant hypocrisy and maneuverings of the U.S. Administration that ignores the UN Security Council resolutions and refuses to impose any sanctions against Israel when it hastens the imposition of sanctions against Iraq and seeks to drag the UN Security Council member states into the arena of the colonialist U.S. policy in the Gulf.

PPSF Leader Gawshah Expresses Support for Iraq

JN1909155890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—Dr. Samir Ghawshah, secretary-general of the [Damascus-based] Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], has stressed that the Front stands in the same trench with great Iraq in defense of the Arab nation's existence and future in the face of the imperialist-Zionist invasion of the Gulf and the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

In statements to INA today, he said the U.S. and Zionist buildup in the region constitutes a desperate attempt to harm the Arab nation and its impregnable fortress—glorious Iraq under the historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

He said the developments in the recent past confirm the growth of aggressiveness in the imperialist-Zionist policy toward the Arab nation and its militant base, represented by great Iraq, aiming, among other things, to stop it from acquiring scientific knowledge and technological and scientific progress. He added: Our Palestinian Arab people, who were the first to take the correct pan-Arab stand in support of the glorious people of Iraq, have strongly and decisively stressed that they stand against the U.S. and Zionist challenges and confirmed their deep understanding of the fact that the battle involves the entire Arab nation for the sake of its glory and pride.

Dr. Samir Ghawshah denounced the treacherous stands of the betrayer [custodian] of the two holy mosques and [Egyptian President] Husni and their ilk—the mercenary betrayers of the Arab nation. He said that the Saudi and Egyptian regime's connection with U.S. imperialism will cause them to fall at the hands of the Arab nation's militants and masses, which have formed a real base of support for Iraq by their decisive and courageous confrontation of the imperialist onslaught. He added that the current battle is a battle of Arab destiny against the U.S. and Zionist challenges and threats in their new crusade to further their schemes and interests in the region, which is one of the most vital regions in the world.

He stressed that any aggression against Iraq by the United States and its allies will be confronted decisively and strongly through every means.

Concluding his statements, Dr. Samir Ghawshah hailed proud Iraq and the honorable sons of the glorious Arab nation for their courageous and genuine confrontation of all foreign aggressions that try to harm the Arab nation and its existence.

Algeria

Paper Views National Islamic Alliance Proposal

*LD1909143390 Algiers APS in English 1323 GMT
19 Sep 90*

[Text] Algiers, 19 Sep (APS)—The national daily "EL-MOUDJAHID" wonders in an article today abut the objective of the "al-Irshad wa'l Islah" [Guidance and Reform] association which called for the constitution of a national Islamic alliance and sees in this a divergence with the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). In this context, it interviewed a member of the alliance, Sheikh Bouslimani, who starts by refusing the pretention of the FIS to represent alone the Islamic current. The sheikh said that "Islam refuses the fait accompli" and that the resort to the concept of "shoura", namely the advice of the enlightened persons of the nation is "compulsory". "But the FIS, he said, only uses its own shoura, ignoring thus the true source, the one which must come from the "daawa".

After pointing out the precision made by Sheikh Bouslimani that the call of the association and which was answered by three hundred associations and eight political parties, was an invitation to "a gathering, a dialogue, a shoura to prepare the forthcoming legislative elections on the basis of a common objective", EL MOUDJAHID finds that it is "curious that the call comes after the attempts to constitute a front against intolerance, that the call may be the first piece of a machine that the Islamists will use to take control of the People's National Assembly".

EL-MOUDJAHID also wonders if this call can be interpreted as a "a Trojan horse which al-Irshad wants to use in order to be able to give its opinion about the questions the FIS will threat at the People's National Assembly. [as received]

"The proposal of al-Irshad, the daily notes, is among the ones which can be refused by fear of being disavowed by the militant basis. One does not so much understand why during the press conference he chaired, the FIS chairman, Abassi Madani, showed a sort of disturbance following a question related to a possible adhesion to the alliance, noted EL-MOUDJAHID which gave the answers of Madani: "I am dismayed that a journalist does not make the difference between a political party and an association of beneficence".

Egypt

Nation To Cease ACC Participation

*JN1909125790 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
17 Sep 90 p 5*

[Text] Cairo, AL-ITTIHAD—Dr. Hilmi Nammar, Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] secretary-general, has received a memo from the Egyptian Government asking him to freeze Egyptian activities in all ACC committees. The Egyptian Government also said it will not attend any future ACC meetings.

Labor Party Members Condemn Leadership on Gulf

*NC2009091090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT
20 Sep 90*

[Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—The Socialist Labor Party [SLP] members in the People's Assembly have rejected and condemned the SLP leadership's policy on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait after it deviated from its sound path and trampled on the principles and slogans it previously declared. The members stressed that the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait is an act of assault, pillage, and piracy that is ethically wrong, illegal, and outside humanitarian norms.

In a statement released today, these members noted that they almost lost their senses when they saw that the SLP leadership adopted and called for a counter stand and endorsed blindly and erroneously a stance that contradicts logic, disregarding its strange and anomalous stand.

The SLP members in the People's Assembly regret that this contradictory stand, defeatist view, and reverse logic should be the stand cherished and advocated by the SLP. They asserted that they made repeated attempts and tried various ways to counsel the SLP leadership to correct its course. The leadership, however, refused to listen to reason and right, which is not surprising from a leadership blinded by false power and too misled by conceit to assess its real size.

The statement condemned the SLP paper and its chief editor's stand on the Gulf crisis. It stressed that the paper has become a destructive tool that does not seek truth in its reporting. The SLP members in the People's Assembly called for banishing the paper's chief editor who does not at all express the views of the SLP or its masses. They underlined their support for all the measures on the crisis taken by the politial leadership, which emphasizes Egypt's firm and noble stand and vows not to deviate from it. They stressed that they will continue their struggle for what is right and will not let the SLP's leadership and paper persist in their deviation, error, and corruption.

Defense Ministry Announces Departure of Troops

*NC1909185290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT
19 Sep 90*

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—The Egyptian Defense Ministry has announced that its forces left Cairo today for Saudi Arabia to join Egyptian forces already there and other Arab forces in order to strengthen the Kingdom's defensive capabilities. In a statement it issued today, the Defense Ministry said that the vanguards of these forces have arrived at the Saudi port of Yanbu'.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met the day before yesterday with the commanders and members of the force being dispatched to Saudi Arabia and briefed them on the latest developments of the situation in the Gulf area and the Egyptian position. The president reassured himself about the morale of the troops and their understanding of their mission.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Somali Special Envoy

LD1909224190 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution yesterday received Admiral Sa'id Abdullah Umar, deputy commander in chief of the Somali Armed Forces and personal envoy of President Mohamed Siad Barre.

Admiral Sa'id Abullah Umar handed the brother leader of the revolution a written message from President Mohamed Siad Barre concerning the situation in the Gulf region and the relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Somalia. [passage omitted]

Tuareg Tribes Pledge Allegiance to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1909143990 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The Tuareg tribes dwelling in various parts of the great Jamahiriyah have sent a message to the brother leader of the revolution, which said: We, the Tuareg tribes in the regions and municipalities of Murzuq, (Wadi al-Haya), Ghat, Ghadamis, and other parts of the great Jamahiriyah reaffirm our loyalty to you, highly assess your work and humanitarian stances, and support what was said at your news conference in Djanet, Algeria, at the beginning of this month. We affirm the following:

1. We support what was said at the news conference, bless your concern, and affirm to you our Arabism and our cohesion with the great al-Fatih revolution. We are proud and honored by our position in the great Jamahiriyah, where there is no injustice, oppression, or racial discrimination.

2. We declare that we have never felt that we are an alien people or an oppressed minority in this society, and practical reality proves that.

3. (?We appreciate) the extent of your concern over the suffering of the Tuareg in some neighboring countries, and the good attention you have given to the issue, which was clearly evident in your method and approach, and the way of dealing with and great attention you have given to the issue as a distinctive and important current issue.

4. We support your offer to Tuareg tribes in other countries. We regard them as our brothers and we welcome them to live with us in the great Jamahiriyah, the land of free men and seekers of freedom under your historic and great leadership.

5. We, the Tuareg in the great Jamahiriyah, pledge that we will not become a tool for the ambitions of the greedy, nor an instrument to be exploited by agents at home or abroad. We are prepared to expose, resist, repel, and stand against anyone who may propagate this with the aim of harming us and distorting our image.

6. We, the Tuareg in the Jamahiriyah, put ourselves at your disposal to implement your humanitarian call for the resolution of the issue of the Tuareg who are living in other countries. Long live the leader and long live the al-fatih. We progress, and the revolutionary struggle continues. From all the Tuaregs in the great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Opens Al-Sahil Natural Gas Refinery

LD1909224690 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution, who initiated the era of the masses, this evening opened a natural gas refinery in the al-Sahil field of the Sirte petroleum company as part of the great mass celebrations of the 21st anniversary of the great al-fatih revolution. [passage omitted]

An informed source at the al-Sahil natural gas field told JANA that the field was discovered in 1982, and was developed and new wells were sunk for increasing production during the past years. Then this refinery was built. The capacity of the refinery is 150 million cubic feet of natural gas and 3,000 barrels of liquid gas per day. The field contains 15 productive wells in addition to the service facilities.

The brother leader of the revolution this evening also laid the cornerstone of the refinery at al-Sumud field of the Sirte petroleum company. The field contains 10 natural gas wells whose production is expected to reach 75 million cubic feet of natural gas and three million barrels [as heard] of liquid gas per day.

Mauritania

Libya To Strengthen Cooperation in Education

AB1909164690 Dakar PANA in French 1305 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Dakar, 18 Sep (POOL-NA/PANA)—Mauritania and Libya have decided to strengthen cooperation in higher education and professional training, it was announced in Nouakchott at the end of the Libyan minister of higher education's visit. Mr. Ahmad Muhammad Ibrahim, Libyan People's Committee secretary (minister) for higher education and scientific research, has just ended a few days' working visit to Mauritania.

A communique broadcast by Radio Mauritania and monitored in Dakar stated that Libya was prepared to contribute to creating a faculty of science and technology in Nouakchott. An official of the Mauritanian Ministry of National Education quoted by the national radio also stated that the Libyan Government will provide 100 scholarships for higher studies annually for the next three years for Mauritanian students with baccalaureate diplomas who wish to further their studies. Thirty additional scholarships will be awarded to Mauritanian students preparing their doctoral degrees.

During the 1990-1991 university academic year, Libya will award 60 study scholarships to Mauritanian students. Libya has also pledged to take charge of the transport expenses of those who will have completed their courses. Libya is also prepared to supply books to higher education institutions in Mauritania.

In addition, Libya and Mauritania have signed an agreement on diploma equivalency. They also discussed establishing a program to encourage exchanges and cooperation between higher education institutions. Finally they announced the creation of a follow-up committee to implement this program.

The Mauritanian side expressed its desire to obtain Libyan support for constructing the University of Nouakchott. The Libyan delegation pledged to examine this request in Tripoli.

Morocco

Talks Consider Improving Soviet Commercial Ties

LD1909134290 Rabat MAP in English 1312 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Rabat, Sept. 19 (MAP)—The development of Moroccan-Soviet relations, mainly economic and commercial, was at the center of talks, Tuesday [18 September] in Rabat, between Soviet Ambassador to Morocco Yuriy Rybakov and President of the Moroccan General Economic Confederation (Employers' Union) Abderrahmane Bennani-Smires. The two sides on the occasion noted the need to upgrade bilateral trade exchanges and remedy the slackness that had characterized these exchanges during the past decade.

Bennani-Smires stressed, in this respect, the importance Morocco attaches to the denationalization policy it is embarking on, and to small and medium enterprises and institutional facilities (investment codes, incentives..), on further developing its economy.

Following a work session, Moroccan economic operators and the Soviet delegation accompanying Rybakov decided to seek means to upgrade cooperation, mainly in the agrobusiness, textiles, banking and construction sectors.

The two sides highlighted the existence of vast possibilities for promoting their exchanges, underlining the need to set up a large network of industrial and economic information.

Sudan

Minister Says Foreign Element Aggravates Crisis

EA1909202290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19 September [SUNA)—Brigadier (legal) Ahmad Mahmud Hasan, minister of justice and attorney general, in a statement published in today's AL-INQADH AL-WATANI about the Gulf crisis, said that Sudan's stance towards the crisis is clear and that it rejects the method of condemnations because it does not lead to a practical solution. His excellency explained that Sudan favors an Arab solution within an Arab framework and that the existence of the foreign element was aggravating the problem. He explained that the foreign intervention, particularly in the Red Sea, affects Sudan and that trade has become restricted, pointing out that the foreign forces have exhausted Arab funds because of the expenditure of billions of dollars, which has negative effects on the Arab economy. His excellency touched on the bickering of some official newspapers and information organs in some Arab states.

292 Citizens Arriving From Kuwait via Jordan

EA1909201790 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Port Sudan, 19 September (SUNA)—The Sudanese ship Darfur will be arriving today at Port Sudan from the Jordanian port of Al-'Aqabah with 292 Sudanese returning from Kuwait and 87 vehicles on board. Brigadier (Navy) Awad al-Karim Babikr, supervisor of the reception committees for the returnees, said that all arrangements had been made to receive the returnees and transport them to their homes in the country. This is the third batch of returnees from Kuwait of the 1,200 people who arrived in Jordan recently. Out of this number,

UAE, Qatari Papers on Iraqi Offer, Sanctions

JN1609065290 Manama WAKH in English 1505 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Manama, Sept 15 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-BAYAN today commented editorially on Iraq's offer to give free oil to the Third World, saying in part: Oil prices have risen again to more than 31 dollars a barrel, an increase of nearly two dollars in one week or since Baghdad said it would offer free oil to the Third World countries.

This simply means that no one in the Third World or the Second or the First has taken the Iraqi offer seriously. They have all realized it was mere propaganda, apparently designed to gain sympathy in the Third World and persuade it to abandon condemnation of aggression in return for free oil.

In fact, the Third World peoples did not need to know that implementation of the Iraqi promise was impossible given the international seige which blocks every drop of Iraqi or Kuwaiti oil, be it free on in installments.

They also know Iraq's excuse to invade Kuwait was because the Kuwaitis had rejected Baghdad's attempts to increase oil prices. It would be better for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and avoid maneuvers to head off a possible disaster.

Qatari daily newspaper AL-'ARAB said the economic blockade imposed by the Security Council on Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait is considered one of the options, and not the only one, since there are several other options including as a matter of last resort the military option if Iraq insisted on remaining in Kuwait.

The paper noted the success of the economic blockade which so far led the Iraqi regime to panic and look for a way out of the blockade. The paper added that it was regrettable that a number of countries were seeking to send food supplies to Iraq on the pretext of the presence of nationals from these states in Kuwait and Iraq.

This prompted the Security Council to adopt Resolution 666 on sending food stuffs and medicines, the paper said urging for caution to prevent Iraq from utilising this resolution to undermine the economic blockade imposed by the Security Council. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Rafsanjani Letter Stresses Adherence to Blockade

JN1909114190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 19 Sep (WAKH)—Bahraini Amir His High Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah has received a letter from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani dealing with issues of common interest, including Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait. The letter was handed over by the Iranian charge d'affaires in Manama, who met with his highness the Bahraini amir here this morning.

The Iranian president stressed in his letter Iran's commitment to the UN resolutions on the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait, the imposition of a blockade on Iraq, and the implementation of the UN resolutions. The Bahraini amir expressed his satisfaction with the progress of relations between the two neighborly Muslim countries as well as Iran's positive position on the Gulf crisis. The meeting was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Denies Seeking Mediation Efforts

LD1909192690 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, said Kuwait did not request, directly or indirectly, any Arab or non-Arab official to undertake any mediation initiatives to end the crisis created by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

This is because it is convinced of the futility of such attempts, given Saddam Husayn's determination to challenge the will of the Arab and Islamic homelands and the entire international community by continuing his aggression against Kuwait and occupation of its territories in fulfillment of his expansionist ambitions and megalomaniac fantasies, despite the destruction and suffering that such a course would bring to his overwhelmed people or the other Arab peoples. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah said Kuwait had repeatedly declared its firm position of rejecting any initiatives, mediations, or solutions which fall short of the full implementation of the resolutions of the Arab summit conference, held in Cairo on 10 August 1990, and the UN Security Council resolutions, all of which condemned the Iraqi aggression and invasion of the state of Kuwait, called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from all Kuwaiti territories, and affirmed its support for the return of the legitimate authority of the state of Kuwait.

He added that while affirming its commitment to the full implementation of all these resolutions, Kuwait hopes that all who volunteer to undertake similar initiatives, which only waste time and effort and increase Arab divisions, would remember the real cause of the crisis which is Saddam Husayn's aggression, contravening all Arab and international laws, religions, charters, and civilized values. They should also remember the brutality, deportation, and maltreatment it brought upon the people and families of Kuwait and those resident in it, who are of various nationalities and religions.

He said they should declare their positions and raise their voices to condemn and reject the treacherous Iraqi aggression and invasion of the State of Kuwait and request the head of the Iraqi regime to submit to the will of the Arab and Islamic homeland and the international community by withdrawing his forces from all Kuwaiti territories and allowing the return of the legitimate authority of the state of Kuwait, as represented by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the state of Kuwait, and his government.

Five Hundred Iraqi Soldiers Said To Surrender

PM1909145190 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 15 Sep 90 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Civil Disobedience to Occupation Continues in Kuwait; 550 Iraqi Soldiers Surrender"]

[Excerpts] Beirut, KUNA—A Kuwaiti organization has said that over 500 Iraqi soldiers have handed in their arms and given themselves up while over 20 others have been killed in fighting between two groups from the invading forces.

The "National Kuwaiti Grouping" has said in a statement distributed to the media here that al-Jahra', Jalib al-Shuyukh, al-Sulaybikhat, al-Rumaythiyah, al-Jabiriyah, Bayan, al-Shamiyah, Kayfan, al-Shuwaykh, Dasmah, al-Shu'ab, and al-Fuhayhil witnessed military operations carried out by Kuwaiti national resistance men against the Iraqi invaders.

It also said that scores of occupation forces have been killed or wounded and some military trucks, personnel carriers, and armored vehicles destroyed during these operations. [passage omitted]

The organization pointed to the continuation of civil disobedience against the invading forces as citizens are continuing to boycott the occupying regime and refuse to implement its decisions or have dealings with it.

The grouping said that in an attempt to weaken the resistance to the invading forces and to terrorize citizens to prevent them from aiding resistance personnel, the occupation forces shot dead five members of the resistance 7 September in the Sabah al-Salim area.

It added that the resistance sons did not forget that crime. Less than 24 hours later the resistance replied to the assassination operation by blowing up an ammunition dump at the conference palace in the Bayan area. The explosion shook the surrounding area and many occupation soldiers were killed.

It also said that 550 Iraqi soldiers who are refusing their commanders' orders to stay in Kuwait handed over their arms and gave themselves up. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Source Confirms Embassy Invasion

LD1809154390 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] We learnt yesterday from Tunisian diplomatic sources that the Tunisian Embassy and the residence of the ambassador in Kuwait were invaded last week by Iraqi soldiers. Rida Boughezi in Tunis:

[Boughezi] The incursion by Iraqi soldiers into the Tunisian Embassy in Kuwait has been confirmed by an authorized source in Tunis. According to this source the Iraqi soldiers began by invading the Tunisian Embassy in Kuwait last Monday [10 September], before entering the residence of the Tunisian ambassador on Friday [14 September], the same day as the incursion into the residence of the French ambassador.

Amir Receives U.S. Gulf Forces Commander

LD1909154290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 19 Sep (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of the State of Kuwait, received today at midday General Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the Arabian Gulf region, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahamd al-Jabir, the Kuwaiti defense minister, and Major General Mazid 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani', the State of Kuwait's chief of the general staff.

Kuwait Airways Relocates Headquarters to Cairo

NC1909051690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Kuwait Airways has relocated its headquarters to Egypt and is expected to begin flights from Cairo next month

Kuwait Airways' Cairo office director has stated that eight Boeing planes which were outside Kuwait at the time of Iraq's invasion will be used in running the flights from Cairo.

Iraq yesterday decided to dissolve Kuwait Airways and transfer its assets to Iraqi Airways.

[Paris AFP in English at 1546 GMT on 18 September in a Cairo-datelined report says: "Kuwait Airways [KA] will resume flights in two weeks, its managing director Ahmad Mashari said Tuesday, 18 September, in Cairo, the airline's new base.

[His announcement came a day after Iraqi Airways disclosed in Baghdad that it had taken over 10 Kuwait Airways planes that were in Kuwait when Iraq invaded on August 2.

[Until the invasion, Kuwait Airways carried 1.8 million passengers a year in 42 countries and had profits of 50 million dollars a year for each of the past three years.

[In an interview in his office here the head of Kuwait Airways, whose new slogan is 'The Challenge and the Change', said, 'The first step is to show that the flag of KA is touching down in most continents.'

['We have traffic rights all over the world, much more than we had before,' he said. 'The whole world is supporting our government by supporting KA.'

[He said Kuwait Airways had based in Cairo four Boeing 747s, three 727s and and one 767, along with 400 pilots and flight attendants.

[He disputed Iraqi Airways' statement on Monday, 17 September, that it had seized 10 planes, saying they actually had taken 15.

[In addition to eight Airbus 300-310's and two Boeing 767's, they also took five Gulfstreams, small corporate jets that will probably be used by the government, he said.

[He also challenged the assertion by the Iraqi Airways director, Nur-al-Din Safi Hammadi, that Iraqi and Arab pilots will soon get the eight Airbuses operational.

['I doubt they will be able to run them; even if they can, no one will accept them,' Mr. Mashari said, adding that Kuwait Airways had informed all relevant international organizations that the Airbuses 'belong to us.'

[Right after the invasion, Kuwait Airways, like other Kuwaiti institutions, established itself in London.

[Cairo, however, was preferred, not only for its proximity to the Gulf, but also because it has 'more facilities for maintenance and more space for the planes at the airport.'"]

Bush Reasoning With Iraqis Called 'Futile'

PM1909151790 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 19 Sep 90 p 8

[Article by Bu-Khalid: "No, Mr. President"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] Dear U.S. President, the words you have addressed to the Iraqi rulers will be of no advantage to you for the simple reason that you used the language of law, humanity, truth, and justice. The Iraqi ruler knows nothing but lies, injustice, the law of the jungle, ruin, and destruction.

Your words were the kind you address to sensible people to whom they have a meaning and a purpose, but the ruling class in Iraq abounds with evil and merciless madness. They have just emerged from a very costly war, and are now dragging the world into endless ruinous gloom.

Your address to the Iraqi people is futile because the Iraqi people are helpless and are driven like a flock of sheep wherever the butcher wants to go. They do not know the meaning of freedom or the right of freedom of expression. They are ruled by death and torture. The Iraqi people, honorable President, do not know what democracy and freedom are, and they know nothing about the outside world. They are isolated from world affairs. They wake up to see a picture of Saddam Husayn; they eat and drink Saddam Husayn's words and sleep with the cheap lies of Saddam Husayn's media.

Mr. President, the Iraqi people have been living in terror since the beginning of the Iraqi Ba'thist rule. Everything is in the hands of a benefiting few, but the majority of the people are helpless and deprived and living on useless mirages and promises and going through endless wars.

Mr. President, your address is understood and appreciated by wise people who know what war means, but the bloodthirsty will only understand the language of bullets, guns, and aircraft.

Oman

Qatari Heir Apparent, Delegation Depart 18 Sep

JN1909173390 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, and his delegation left the country this afternoon after a three-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman at the invitation of the Government of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Government 'Committed' to Summit, UN Resolutions

LD1809225190 Riyadh SPA in Arabia 2222 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Riyadh, 18 September 90, SPA—Commenting on a story carried yesterday, Monday, by the ASSOCIATED PRESS news agency and datelined Amman, which quoted Bassam Abu Sharif as saying in a statement that the PLO feels optimistic about an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis following positive reactions from Saudi Arabia and Iraq to a plan put forward by the organization, an authoritative source today told SPA the following:

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not committed to any solution other than that stipulated by the resolutions of the emergency Arab summit conference, held in Cairo recently, and those of the UN Security Council on the Gulf crisis.

Defense Minister Speaks on Situation in Gulf

LD1909143490 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Speech by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, at dinner banquet in honor of Prince 'Abd al-Illah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; at the King Khalid Center in Buraydah on 18 September—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] May Allah's peace, blessings, and benedictions be upon you. I greet you with Allah's blessed greetings and convey to you the greetings of the custodian of the two holy mosques and his trusted crown prince, may God protect them, as well as their greetings to you. [passage omitted]

If the law of the jungle prevails in resolving a border dispute, or any other dispute—annihilating the other party to the conflict, harming his sanctities, raping his women, and phasing out its existence and landmarks—then, the problem is confined not only to one country. It becomes an aggression against all countries. No country will feel secure. And, the law of the jungle has then prevailed in the international community.

What has happened in the sisterly state of Kuwait is a tragedy in the full meaning and consequences of the word. What Saddam had planned after that is of greater consequence and destructiveness for this homeland and its future. [passage omitted]

It has been proved to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through documents [word indistinct] the movement and deployment of the forces of aggression, that the latter's ambitions are directed toward the widening of the circle of aggression to include the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. [passage omitted]

The Kingdom reckoned that a confrontation between Saudi and Iraqi forces could have only one result, which consists of harm and dangers for the two forces and two peoples. Both should be kept for other purposes, and for a more honorable confrontation than this. [passage omitted]

These forces have come for defensive, not offensive, purposes. They are trying to avert the danger, not to cause it. Their presence and departure depend on the presence of the danger and its dissappearance.

Saddam Husayn is insulting our intelligence when he depicts the fact of asking for the help of friendly forces to avert aggression on a Muslim country and to save Muslim blood and honor as an action calling for holy war. He thus distorts God's words from their context, for evil purposes.

Any Muslim who has a minimum knowledge of Islamic law and aims knows that what really calls for jihad is the entry of invading forces to capture the Muslims' land and change their Sharia [Islamic law]. It is wrong and malevolent to blame whoever is driven by necessity, instead of condemning and fighting whoever caused this necessity and wants it to remain so.

He insults people's intelligence when he brandishes the fair distribution of wealth, freedom, and dignity. [passage omitted]

He insults people's intelligence when he links the tragedies he caused with the Arab's and Muslims' first question—that of sisterly Palestine. Any person endowed with reason knows that Saddam and those who side with him have stabbed the Palestinian question in the heart.

The axis round which the right and logic of the [Palestinian] question revolve is the grave injustice which consists in invading a land and dispersing a people. Saddam has done the same thing and justified it with the same reasons and explanations given by Israel. Some others supported him to act in the same way as those who destroy their homes with their own hands. [passage omitted]

Dear esteemed brothers, the Kingdom knows its duty, first before Allah, and then before its citizens, to protect religion, blood, honor, and property. It has exerted and will exert everything possible to avert the dangers facing its territory, its people, and the people of the region if there is the possibility of someone who would revert to religion, wisdom, and consciousness; giving precedence to the [Arab] nation's interest and safety before his own whims. [passage omitted]

Defense Official Receives French Delegation

LD1809213990 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Fahd Bin 'Abdallah bin Muhammad al Sa'ud, assistant minister of defense and aviation for civil aviation affairs, received in Jeddah this evening Jean Lecanuet, chairman of the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Armed Forces Committee in the French Senate and the delegation accompanying him, who are on a visit to the Kingdom.

Deputy Minister of Defense on Preparedness

LD1809223390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, attended the graduation of the 38th group of King Faysal Air College cadets this morning. [passage omitted]

His royal highness answered questions from the press.

[Begin recording] I would like to reassure every citizen that the purpose of the Saudi forces is not just to show off or hold parades. The purpose of the Saudi forces, by their nature and constitution, is to repel aggression. It is well known that if aggression is to be repelled, one must be prepared. Without the existing preparations we would not have been able to say that the Saudi forces are ready to repel the enemy. Quite frankly, I say: Saudi forces are ready to confront any aggression from any quarter. I hope the day will never come when we have to test our forces or the other friendly forces, because people tend to prefer peace. However, this does not mean that we will give any party whatsoever the opportunity to violate or usurp any part of Saudi Arabia. These forces will be waiting for them by day and by night. I would like to reassure every Saudi citizen that the forces are fully prepared. This is not only true now; they were ready before. [end recording]

Asked about opening enlistment centers in all the cities of Saudi Arabia, Prince 'Abd al-Rahman said that enlistment centers are being opened now in every place where there might be a sufficient number of citizens. He pointed out that there are places where the required numbers are found, and others where the numbers are being complemented in order to open the enlistment centers [as heard]. He pointed out that the numbers of students joining the military colleges are increasing over time, as the current numbers are greater than the previous ones. He said: With the passage of years the colleges will absorb more students. In this connection he pointed out that King Faysal Air College now graduates two groups of cadets every year, which shows the increase in the number of its students.

Asked whether any arms deal was made with the Soviet Union in the wake of the resumption of relations, Prince 'Abd al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz pointed out that the Ministry of Defense and Aviation is continuing to import advanced and diversified weapons, and sometimes Saudi Arabia moves ahead of surrounding countries and attains the degree of technical progress of the countries which have been in this field for several years.

In reply to a question about asking for forces from the Soviet Union to participate in the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia, the prince said: As is well known, the Soviet Union is a superpower and it has been proved that it is one of the principled members of the United Nations that agreed to the UN resolutions. This is clear, and there is nothing more than that.

Asked about the Saudi request for new weapons, the prince said: The Armed Forces have become technical forces. Numbers are not the only important factor. Events and technology had requirements which were fulfilled. Now there are requirements which will arrive very soon, some for the ground forces, some for the Air Force, some for the Navy and some for air defense. He pointed out that the equipment to arrive is among the most advanced in the world because the Ministry of Defense and Aviation is constantly obliged to improve and develop for the better. [passage omitted]

Belgian Expert To Advise on Chemical Warfare

AU2009142590 Paris AFP in English 1402 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Brussels, Sept 20 (AFP)—A world-renowned chemical arms expert is to advise Saudi leaders on how to detect chemical weapons and decontaminate and treat victims of chemical warfare [CW], informed sources said here Thursday [20 September].

Professor Aubin Heyndrickx left for Saudi Arabia Wednesday following an "urgent request" by Saudi officials, an aide told Agence France-Presse.

The Saudi Embassy here would not confirm the report.

Prof. Heyndrickx of Ghent University will give Saudi officials "scientific information on how to detect those terrible gases, as well as on how to decontaminate and treat those poisoned", sources added. He repeatedly visited Iran during the 1980-88 war between Iran and Iraq and was the first to detect chemicals used by Iraq in 1984 to break the Iranian resistance. Iraq reportedly changed the poison mix in 1985 to enhance its deadly effects.

Prof. Hendryckx has said that he developed efficient antidotes against toxins used by Iraq.

Several Iranian poison gas victims were treated in Belgium at the time.

Visa, Residency Permit Requirements Altered

LD1909171190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1436 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Statement by the Saudi Interior Ministry issued on 19 September]

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Sep (SPA)—There are some foreign communities in the Kingdom which have been granted exemptions from some of the rules pertaining to residence and employment. This has enabled them not to be tied down to a work sponsor, as is the case with other foreign communities, and has left them with the freedom to work and move throughout the Kingdom.

In view of the changes in the considerations and circumstances under which the Kingdom granted these exemptions, and because of the requirements of public interest which necessitated a reassessment of the exemptions issued previously in a way that could bring about equal treatment for all the communities working in the Kindgom, and in light of this concept, the following has been decided:

1. To terminate the granting of entry visas at points of entry to the Kingdom by land to some communities which used to enjoy exemption from obtaining a visa from the Kingdom's embassies. Any member of these communities who wishes to enter the Kingdom must now apply to the Saudi Embassy in his country to obtain an entry visa as stipulated by rule and instructions.

2. To annul exemptions from the need to submit a work sponsor in order to obtain a residence permit. In light of this annulment, all members of the communities which have previously benefited from the exemption and who are currently in the Kingdom, must hasten to apply to passport offices in the Kingdom. They must present a work sponsor within one month of that date in accordance with the rules applied to other communities. Whoever does not come forward to passport offices within that period will have their residence permit annulled, and will be subject to regular penalties.

3. To cancel exemptions from paying residence fees which were granted to some communities. The reasons for granting this exemption no longer apply.

4. To cancel the instructions which call for granting some nationalities a four-year residence; to ensure that their treatment concerning the period of the residence is the same as the treatment of other nationalities.

5. To cancel the instructions which call for exempting some from registering on arrival at the passport office. These people will be subject to whatever rules apply to the nationals of other states.

6. To affirm the application of the provisions of Article 54 of the residence regulations, which call for deporting every foreigner who breaks the provisions of Article 12 of the residence regulations stipulating that the newcomer to the Kingdom must not enter into paid or unpaid employment except after obtaining a residence permit; to cancel any rule that excludes the application of this provision.

7. To cancel exemptions given to some communities concerning applications of the provisions of Article 55 of the residence regulations calling for the deportation of anyone who fails to renew the residence permit.

8. To stress that no nationals of any states are excluded from the enforcement of all the regulations which are in operation, and which stipulate that a foreigner of whatever nationality must not engage in trade in any form, or in investment, or engage on his own behalf or in partnership with others in any activity that does not permit investment in foreign capital, or any regulations and instructions that prohibit such activity.

Anyone who allows a foreigner to exploit his permit or commercial registration in whatever form is considered an accomplice.

A period of three months will be given to put right any condition that is in violation of this stipulation.

While announcing this, the Interior Ministry would like to stress that those whose legal status conforms with what was stated previously will receive all facilities, respect, and appreciation to which they are accustomed from the sons of this country, and from its government.

Scholar Justifies Non-Muslim Aid in Crisis

LD1909220590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mitwalli Sha'rawi, a leading Islamic scholar, said that seeking international assistance in confronting the Gulf crisis was understandable since we in the Arab and Islamic world are governed by ties linking us to international organizations which have laws that govern them. We have accepted those laws.

In a press statement released today, he added: Our guide in the issue of seeking help is the messenger of God; may the peace and blessing of God be upon him. The prophet had gone to al-Ta'if to rally supporters and then returned to holy Mecca. When he did not find anyone who would support him, he sought the support of a non-Muslim, namely al-Mut'an Ibn 'Adiyy.

Shaykh Sha'rawi went on to say: When the prophet did not have weapons to use in combat, he borrowed from Safwan Ibn Umayyah, a non-Muslim. When the prophet decided to travel, he sought the help of a non-Muslim guide to show him the way: Ibn Qyraydh.

Shaykh Sha'rawi deeply regretted the invasion of Saddam Husayn and his terrorist acts against the land and the people of Kuwait. He pointed out that Iraqi aggression did not confine itself to the ruler of Kuwait, but it was also against the entire people of Kuwait and against other peoples, Kuwait's neighbors and guests.

He was puzzled by the demands of Saddam Husayn regarding the redistribution of wealth when he possessed huge wealth in Iraq. He said that Saddam Husayn himself did not redistribute that wealth. He affirmed that the ideas spread by Saddam Husayn are nothing but black hatred.

Shaykh Muhammad Mitwalli Sha'rawi criticized some of the leading Arab intellectuals who preferred to keep silent and to remain passive toward the events taking place in the Gulf.

Television Extends Broadcasts to Kuwaiti Border

LD1909224790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Ra's al Kafji [near the Kuwaiti border], 19 Sept. (SPA)—Television transmission to the town of Ra's al-Kafji has begun as part of the recently completed project designed to extend television broadcasts to all parts of the Kingdom and neighboring states.

Brother viewers and listeners in the town of Ra's al-Kafji and neighboring areas can direct television aerials toward the town of Ra's al-Kafji to receive the first channel on 51 UHF and the second channel on 53 UHF. They can also receive Holy Koran Radio on 88.2 mHz and the second program on 97.8 mHz. Both are on the FM wavelength.

Yemen

Presidential Council, Cabinet Discuss Crisis

JN1909172790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] An expanded joint meeting between the Presidential Council and the cabinet was held this morning under Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council.

The conferees listened to a detailed report on the developments in the region, the extensive efforts by the Yemeni leadership to contain the crisis and resolve it peacefully, and the outcome of various contacts with brothers and friends to contain the crisis and deal with it peacefully within the Arab fold so as to spare the region the disaster of a military confrontation.

The conferees also reviewed the great dangers of the foreign presence and the increased military tension that threaten security and stability in the region and world peace.

The conferees also had a serious discussion on the economic effects of the crisis and its repercussions on our country and the measures taken by the Presidential Council and the government to face them.

The conferees stressed the need to continue efforts in cooperation with the brothers and friends to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis and to support all political initiatives aimed at containing the crisis and resolving it peacefully.

In addition, the conferees stressed that the government should draw up urgent plans and measures to tackle the effects of the crisis and its repercussions on our country, especially in the economic field, in a way that maintains economic stability, strengthens national unity and social safety, ensures security in the country, and protects national sovereignty and the great gains and accomplishments achieved by the immortal Yemeni Revolution.

Cabinet Regrets Saudi Measures Against Citizens

JN2009154090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 20 Sep 90

["Text" of a statement issued by the Council of Ministers "in its extraordinary session this morning."]

[Text] The Council of Ministers has reviewed the measures taken by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as declared in the statement issued by the Saudi Interior Ministry yesterday, Wednesday, 19 September 1990, in which it canceled the facilities granted to the sons of the Yemeni community in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Council also reviewed the meaning of these measures; mainly, the harm done to the legitimate and acquired rights of the sons of the Republic of Yemen, who have contributed, along with their brothers, to the building of the Kingdom out of the historical ties of kinship, neighborliness, and creed.

While expressing its deep regret over these measures, the Council of Ministers affirms our country's right to take the steps to safeguard the rights of the Yemeni citizens and their properties. The Council also calls upon the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to reconsider these measures and all measures it had taken toward the Republic of Yemen, out of the eagerness to maintain the historical ties and the special relationship between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—relations of good-neighborliness, noninterference in internal affairs, and of maintaining mutual interests.

Salih Comments on Political Solution to Crisis

NC1909125990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has asserted that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's refusal to withdraw his troops from Kuwait will mean the total annihilation of the Arab nation and the undermining of Arab issues and existence. In an interview with the Egyptian leftist newspaper AL-AHALI, Salih warned against the dangers of the military option. He said a political solution is bound to help Arab states overcome their internal differences and discord. He added that the military option is ruled out, at least in the near future.

The Yemeni president contends that the goal of the foreign forces in the Gulf region is to protect and maintain foreign interests and realize suspicious Western dreams and aspirations.

President Salih pointed out that he had suggested to the Egyptian president that he [Salih] travel to Baghdad for negotiations with the Iraqi president. He noted that Mubarak had accepted and voiced support for any serious and comprehensive Arab mediation.

'Arafat Arrives, Calls for International Meeting

JN1909183190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and general commander of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a visit to our country during which he will meet with several brother officials.

In a statement to SABA', the Palestinian president stressed the importance of resolving the Kuwait crisis within the Arab fold and through the efforts of the sincere sons and leaders of the Arab nation.

Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] stressed that many international factors have become entangled in the Gulf crisis, namely, the concentrated foreign presence in the region and the accompanying statements that exacerbate tension in the Arab region.

The Palestinian president called for linking and resolving the major issues in the Middle East through an international conference that tackles all issues on the basis of international legitimacy from the premise of the indivisibility of problems that threaten peace in the Middle East, foremost of which is the issue of the Arab Palestinian people.

On the Palestinian initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis, the Palestinian president explained the PLO's continuous efforts to resolve this serious crisis within the Arab fold.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat was welcomed by Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister; the protocol representative; and Yahya Rabah, Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa.

Discusses Crisis With Salih

JN2009092090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, last night received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman. The two leaders discussed the latest developments in the region and exchanged views in light of the contacts held by each of them to contain the Gulf crisis peacefully within Arab bounds and to back up all efforts and initiatives to spare the Arab region the danger of foreign presence and the disaster of the military option, which would bring destruction on the region [words indistinct].

The Palestinian president briefed brother Chairman Salih on the outcome of his tour of a number of fraternal countries and his talks with their leaders, which aimed at finding a solution to the crisis through an Arab initiative that resolves the crisis peacefully, removed from foreign intervention, and in a manner that overcomes the current Arab split and restores Arab solidarity.

The meeting was attended by House of Representatives Speaker Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, First Deputy Prime Minister Hasan Makki, and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani. It was also attended by Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf and Palestinian Ambassador in Sanaa Yahya Rabah.

Agrees on Initiative; Departs

JN2009133890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, left Sanaa at dawn today following a short visit to our country. During the visit, he met with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council.

In a statement to SABA', brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said during his meeting with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih that they had discussed the Gulf crisis, the situation in the Middle East, and the generous efforts being made by Arab leaders to contain and resolve the crisis within the Arab framework and the Arab family. He added: I explained to the brother president the details of Palestinian action. Proceeding from the Yemeni-Palestinian initiative which we have set forth since the inception of the crisis, we agreed to develop this initiative in the interests of our Arab nation and to resolve the current crisis. Concluding his statement, he asserted that what is going on in the region does not affect only a single Arab country, but also Arab existence itself—that is, to be or not to be.

He was seen off by brother Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister; a representative of presidential protocol; Yahya Rabah, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Sanaa; and brother Buhumayd, commander of the Sabra Camp in Sanaa.

Salih Receives DPRK Official, Message

JN1409140090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received Pak Ui-chun, DPRK vice foreign minister, who conveyed to the brother chairman a message from DPRK President Kim Il-song in which he expressed his and the Korean people's congratulations to the Yemeni people for the achievement of unity and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen. The message praised the efforts of the Yemeni leadership in achieving Yemeni people's unity and embodying their aspirations. The message also deals with relations between the two friendly countries.

The Korean official briefed the brother chairman on the nature of the talks and consultations held between delegations representing the two parts of Korea on the path of reunifying Korea.

The brother chairman asked the Korean official to convey his greetings to Korean leader Kim Il-song and best wishes to the friendly Korean people on achieving their aspirations in unity, progress, and prosperity. [passage omitted]

DFLP Official Holds Talks in Sanaa, Departs

JN1809094790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Abu-Layla [Qays al-Samarra'i], member of the Political Bureau in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], left Sanaa today following a several-day visit to our country. During the visit, he met with several officials in the General People's Conference and the Socialist Party.

In a statement to SABA', the Palestinian official said that his meetings with the brother officials in both organizations were fruitful and dealt with several current Arab issues and concerns. The Palestinian official praised the Yemeni people's great accomplishment of achieving Yemeni reunification.

He was seen off by several brother officials and brother Yahya Rabah, Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa.

Saddam Husayn Records Message to Americans

JN2009103690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has announced that a message from President Saddam Husayn to the American people has been recorded.

The minister told INA that the U.S. quarters concerned have been officially contacted to receive the message and broadcast it on U.S. television networks.

We are awaiting the U.S. Administration's official response to this, in order to receive the message and to transmit it fully without omission or editing, the minister said.

He added: If the U.S. Administration apologizes for not receiving or airing the message in accordance with the principle of reciprocal treatment, then the competent official Iraqi quarters will present it to the American people and the world via international television stations through its own means.

Officials Threaten Retaliation for U.S. Attack

'Will Strike' U.S. Interests

JN1909143090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi deputy prime minister, has said that Iraq will strike at U.S. interests anywhere in the world if U.S. forces attack Iraq.

This came in an interview with the Turkish newspaper MILLIYET, published today.

'All Oil Wells' in Danger

JN2009112690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (PETRA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, has praised the pan-Arab stands of His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government and people.

During a meeting with the Jordanian press team currently visiting Iraq, Jasim said that Jordan's pulse has been harmonious with that of Iraq for the past 10 years, and that Jordan and Iraq agree on crucial pan-Arab issues. He hailed the Arab Popular Forces conference that concluded its meetings in Amman this week and praised the results it achieved, which, he said, were successful by all standards.

Jasim stressed that if Iraq is subjected to a military aggression, Iraq's strategic plan is to destroy all oil wells in the region, and not a single well will be spared. He also said Iraq will use all weapons at its disposal to retaliate against aggression. He said that Iraq's strategic objective is to liberate Palestine, and stressed his pride in the fact that Arab nationalism is now hoisting the banner of the Islamic jihad. He said Iraqi morale is high to the extent they are leading their normal lives quite well.

The minister proposed to the Jordanian delegation members to work, each according to his own specialty, with the press and information institutions for one week in order to interact and hold dialogue with their Iraqi counterparts with the purpose of improving work, overcoming negative situations, and adjusting the course by choosing alternative options. He stressed that Iraq will listen to its brothers who share its pan-Arab concern.

Dr. Fahd al-Fanik [member of the Jordanian delegation and economic columnist for the Amman newspaper AL-RA'Y] expressed in reply his and the delegation members' pride in the Iraqi initiative, which, he said, is correct, although Iraq is a pioneer in the field of Arab nationalism and the battles of steadfastness.

'Zionist Drones' Reportedly Active in Gulf Area

JN1909095790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1936 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Washington, 18 Sep (INA)—For the first time, a formation of Zionist drones is carrying out activity within the framework of the hostile U.S. presence in the Gulf.

INA has learned from informed press sources that these drones are now on board the U.S. aircraft carriers in the Gulf and their task is to collect information and carry out acts of espionage. Meanwhile, the commanders of the U.S. Sixth Fleet expressed satisfaction with these drones' performance and ability to carry out their assigned tasks.

These drones, which are manufactured by the Zionist war factories, are called "Pioneer." The U.S. Sixth Fleet has 12 of them on board and they can fly for seven continuous hours.

Transport Workers To Boycott U.S., UK Ships

JN1909155590 Baghdad INA in English 1515 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, Sep 19, INA—The Arab Transport workers agreed on boycotting loading and unloading vessels and planes affiliate [as received] of the states participating in troops and fleets in invading the sacred Arab lands in Najd and Hijaz [Saudi Arabia].

In a statement the Executive Council of the Arab Transport Workers confirmed that the decision of boycott would be effective from next October against all American and British means of transport.

The council considered the measures of boycott as an initial warning, and if the aggression would take place against Iraq, the boycott includes all states participating in it.

The Arab workers urged for repealing the Security Council iniquitous decisions against Iraq which embodied the U.S domination freezing all international resolutions pertaining finding a solution to the Palestinian question and punishing the Zionist entity. The Arab workers held member organizations responsible for breaking the blockade being imposed on the Iraqi people. The workers stressed that the Arab Gulf crisis was an Arab affair and any party has no right to intervene in it.

The workers affirmed that deployment of the U.S and Western troops in the Arab Gulf region and the Arab Peninsula under the cover of the international legitimacy aimed at nothing but to dominate the Arab oil. The Arab transport workers strongly denounced measures of deportation and expulsion of the Palestinian labourers working in the Arab Gulf countries, calling for halting the suspicious media campaigns against the Palestinian people and the PLO. The Executive Council of the Arab Transport Workers began two days ago meetings to discuss means necessary for countering the American-Atlantic aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Foreign Women, Children Leave Baghdad 19 Sep

JN1909191790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1904 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—In implementation of President Saddam Husayn's orders to allow the guests of Iraq to travel to their countries or stay in Iraq as they wish, a new group of foreign women and children left Baghdad this evening.

In statements to INA, the departing guests of Iraq stressed the good hospitality and full care they received during their stay from the people and leadership of Iraq. They said President Saddam Husayn's initiative to allow them to travel or stay in Iraq is a message of peace to the world that reflects Iraq's goodwill in achieving security and peace in the region and the entire world.

National Aircraft Leaves Baghdad for London

NC1909175390 Paris AFP in English 1745 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 19 (AFP)—An Iraqi Airways jetliner carrying 416 Western women and children left here Wednesday at 8:20 p.m. (1620 GMT) for London, aviation sources said.

The Boeing 747, chartered by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, had earlier in the afternoon flown in some 400 women and children—mostly U.S. and British nationals—from Kuwait, they said.

Japanese Legislator Seeks To Free Hostages

OW2009062090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0320 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 20 KYODO—Antonio Inoki, a Japanese pro-wrestler-turned legislator, requested the release of sick and aged Japanese hostages in a meeting with the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly on Wednesday.

A source traveling with Inoki said the wrestler presented a list of more than 10 names of Japanese hostages during the hour-long meeting with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

Salih accepted the list, saying the Iraqi Government understands the Japanese position. However, he gave no indication whether the Iraqi Government would comply with the request.

Salih urged Inoki to convey the Iraqi stance, calling for an Arab solution to the crisis, to the Japanese people, the source said. The atmosphere of the meeting was described as relaxed.

Inoki, a member of the House of Councillors, is expected to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and other Iraqi officials.

Inoki, who arrived here Sunday in an individual crusade to seek the release of the elderly and sick Japanese held hostage in Iraq, has said he wants to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during his stay.

At least 141 Japanese nationals are known to have been detained in military facilities and other strategic installations in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait. They are among the Western hostages the Iraqi Government has held as "human shields" to deter possible attack by the U.S.-led multinational force deployed in the Gulf region.

Government Considers Release

OW2009134990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1206 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 20 KYODO—Visiting Japanese parliamentarian-cum-pro wrestler Antonio Kanji Inoki said Thursday that Iraq is considering releasing some of the Japanese hostages it is holding in Iraq and Iraqi-controlled Kuwait.

Earlier in the day, Inoki met Iraq Olympic Committee President Uday Husayn to discuss the status of Japanese nationals in Iraq and Kuwait.

Uday Husau is the son of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Papers Comment on 16 Sep Bush Message

JN1909203990

[Editorial report] The Iraqi dailies AL-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-QADISIYAH, and AL-'IRAQ of 17 September reacted to President George Bush's 16 September message to the Iraqis in their editorials and articles. All papers also carry the Iraqi Television commentator's statement on the message. All papers highlight the news of the demonstrations staged in Iraq after Bush's message was aired by Iraqi Television.

The following are some of the headlines that appeared in the Iraqi papers of 17 September:

AL-'IRAQ: "From Zakho to the Sea—Mammoth Anger on the Bush Message; In response to Bush's Message: We Welcome the Battles; Anger, Anger, Anger; The Masses Took to the Streets Furious at Bush's Message; We Will Only Bow Our Heads to God; O Bush: Pull Out Your Forces From Our Sacred Land; In the Night of the Popular Anger in Iraq, the Masses Announce Their Determination to Continue The March Behind the Banner of Our Great Leader Saddam Husayn."

AL-THAWRAH: "Our Angry Masses Respond to Bush in Mammoth Demonstrations; What Saddam Husayn Says is What the Iraqi People Want; In Response to Bush: Angry Demonstrations and Processions Prevail in Cities Throughout Iraq; The Iraqi Anger Coming From All Fronts Will Witness the Defeat of Charlatans; We Will Not Listen to Who Wants To Deprive Us of Medicine and Food; With Souls and Blood We Redeem You, O Saddam."

AL-QADISIYAH: "All the People of the Great Iraq Took to The Streets Declaring Their Anger on Bush's Aggressive Logic; Our Faithful People Announce Their Love of Leader Saddam Husayn and Renew the Pledge of Allegiance and Faithfulness to his Great Leadership; In Response to Bush's Message to The Iraqi People Millions of the Sons of our Great People Announce in Huge Demonstrations: We Swear By God, We Swear by Iraq, We Will Not Kneel Down as Long as Saddam is Among Us; Be Damned Bush and His Aides. The Will of Justice Against Falsehood Will Triumph."

AL-JUMHURIYAH: "Mammoth Demonstrations Roaring in Iraq's Cities and Villages; The People of Iraq Explode Angrily Against Bush's Falsehoods; The American Blockade on Iraq Began Before 2 August 1990; Millions in the Streets of Baghdad and Governorates Angry at the Godfather of the Imperialist West."

The 750-word editorial that appeared in AL-'IRAQ on pages 1 and 11 under the headline "Bush's Games," concentrates on "the forgery and falsification of the facts related to the entire region" and Bush's attempt "to separate the Iraqi people and their leader Saddam Husayn" that came in Bush's message.

AL-THAWRAH carries on pages 1 and 11 the 1,200-word editorial under the headline "With the Overall Allegiance to Saddam Husayn Our People Responds to Bush," saying the Iraqis and Arabs "reject submission, capitulation, and relinquishment of rights." The paper adds that what the Arabs and Iraqis reject "is exactly what Bush wants to impose on our people and nation."

A 500-word article under the headline "Rejected Authorization," on page 2 of AL-THAWRAH says that "since Bush insists on representing the international community, it is pressing and important to say that we, the Iraqis, together with all the Arabs and Muslims refuse to authorize a lying president to speak on our behalf." Another 500-word article on page 3 of the paper under the headline "Bush and the Iraqi Anger" says "the Iraqis will find an appropriate way with which to respond to the challenge that suits them as a great people and unique fighters."

Under the headline "Bush's Dilemma Vis-a-Vis the Iraqi People" Malik Mansur writes a 900-word article on page 12 in which he says that Bush's ideas, positions, and proposals were "provocative", adding that Bush was "the victim" of "the stupidity of his advisers who prepared the message for him." Another 1,500-word article under the headline "Bush and the Inclination of Aggression and Evil" published in the "Stance" column reviews American "violations" of human rights. The writer adds that the United States was waiting for an opportunity to attack Iraq, which had emerged strong from the eight-year war with Iran. The writer says the last thing "the American imperialists and George Bush think of" is the interest of any Arab country. The writer asks why the United States has not paid attention to the Palestine question. At the end of the article he says Kuwait is an Iraqi territory and that "American imperialism is the one that waged aggression against the Arabs, their land, and their holy places."

An article by Hasan al-Kashif appearing on page 12 refutes Bush's call for peace.

AL-QADISIYAH publishes on page 2 an article by Muhammad al-Sab'awi under the headline "Bush Acted in the Way We Expected," on the contents of the Bush message. Another article appeared on the same page under the headline "Bush's Fallacies" responds to "the claims" in Bush's message.

AL-QADISIYAH 1,400-word editorial published on pages 3 and 11 says that the message was drafted by American intelligence and experts for psychological effect in the media war. AL-QADISIYAH publishes on its final page two articles on Bush's message. The first 400-word article is by 'Isam Ahmad in which he says that he is sad because Bush is still ignorant about the Iraqi people. The second 400-word article is by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid, published in the "Good Morning" column in which the writer wonders why Bush was not so enthusiastic regarding other issues as he is now.

AL-JUMHURIYAH publishes on page 2 two articles commenting on Bush's message. A 300-word article by Amal al-Sharqi under the headline "Shut Up [preceding words in English] Mr. Bush," says after a review of the message: "O Mr. Bush, we have heard your message. We say to you: Shut up, please. Shut up." The second 400-word article by Khalil al-Khuri says that Bush might deceive some people but he cannot deceive the Iraqi people who know what Bush and Reagan did in Irangate and elsewhere to harm Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH publishes two editorials on page 3: "Mr. Bush's Illusions" and an 800-word editorial headlined "Iraq's Response." On the same page, the paper publishes an 1,800-word article by Murshad al-Zubaydi under the headline "Lies and Fallacies in Bush's Message—A Machiavellian Method of Dealing With the People." The writer says the message focused on one fact, that is, "the thinking of the U.S. Administration hinges on one pivot; namely, imposing the American will and way of thinking on the various peoples in the region. The paper publishes on page 10 a 600-word article by Yunus Hasan in which the writer says that Bush's message to the Iraqis made him "the object of all Iraqis' contempt."

Writer Rebuts Points of Bush Television Message

JN1909192390 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 17 Sep 90 p 2

[Article by Muhammad al-Sab'awi: "Bush Acted How We Expected!"]

[Text] Like all the sons of Iraq, I listened to Bush's message yesterday, a message that he formulated with great pains and for which he mobilized a group of CIA experts in the affairs of the Arab homeland, particularly in Iraqi affairs..!!

I did not turn off the television set, as many Iraqis did, not because I expected something new. The man said what he had to say about the measures he has taken on the ground. The truth is that I was trying to find an answer to a question I have been asking myself since the very first moment the Western media started to promote this message by saying that Bush was thinking, Bush was preparing himself to write the message, Bush summons a group of experts, and finally the message materialized. [sentence as published] I was saying that I have been trying to find an answer to a question that I have been repeating to myself: How will he address us, and what language will he use?

But Bush acted how we expected and did not surprise us.

Bush said he was addressing us on behalf of the international community. He said his dispute was not with the Iraqi people, that the United States was against Iraq only after 2 August, and that he and the American people did not want war. However, he did not forget to threaten us that there is no nation on Earth with greater resolve to fight than the United States if we do not give in to his wishes, bow our heads in reverence to his esteemed person, and receive our orders from him with bowed heads, we who bow our heads only to God.

We will not try to anticipate events and we will address Bush with the calmness that he himself has lacked for over a month, in spite of the many dramas he performed in his summer resort before the cameras to prove the opposite.

We will start with the statement that he is speaking on behalf of the international community and ask him the following: Who tasked you to do this? Are the Arabs and the Muslims, who constitute one-fourth of the world's population included in this international community on whose behalf he claims to be speaking?

If he has discounted them from this international community, then the matter need not be argued. But if he considers the Arabs and Muslims to be part of the international community, then I believe that Bush does not hear or see—and this is a tragedy. If this is the case, then he loses the right to speak. However, if he hears and sees, but averts his eyes, then this is a bigger tragedy. We say this because the Arabs and Muslims have raised their voices in support of Iraq, even in Europe and the United States, not to mention the four corners of the world.

The second thing that we consider it our duty to remind Bush is his attempt to make us forget that the United States has been against Iraq. Who are you trying to deceive, Mr. Bush? All this is part of history. Otherwise, who used to plunder our oil? Who imposed a siege on us when we liberated our national resources 18 years ago? Who then nurtured the eight-year war against us with all the means to secure its perpetuation? Irangate is only one of many examples confirming this. Who has been waging campaigns against us to check our progress by preventing technology from reaching our country? Let us say no more in order not to expose Bush further.

Bush says he and the American people do not want war!!

We may agree with Bush that the American people do not want war. There are many signs to this effect. However, we would like to ask Bush and the American people: Who then wants war? Is it the party that stands on its land and national soil and has only united its homeland so that its people may live on it, taking orders from no one but God? Or is it the party that has dispatched its fleets and armies through the seas and oceans and has taken up positions thousands of kilometers away from its country on land that is not its land, and has started to hurl threats?

Who wants war? Is it the first or second party?

Mr. Bush, distorting the facts does not change them and cannot conceal them from those who view things soundly.

As for his threat that there is no nation on earth with greater resolve to fight than the United States, we would like to tell him that we have never, at any time, belittled any nation. Our history testifies to this. But, we do believe that God is the only one who is greater than us. Our history also stands witness to this. We will not remind Bush with too distant examples, because he may not be among those who are interested in reading history. However, blood has not yet dried. He has lived and seen, if not in person, then through the satellites that are still over the region.

In any case, we would like to say to Bush: If you do not believe this, then try, as this is the best proof.

Bush Fails To Understand 'Iraqi Mentality'

JN1909200090 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Sep 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Mr. Bush's Illusions"]

[Text] Once again, the U.S. President has proven his failure to understand the Iraqi mentality and its characteristics, the hardness of his estimation of the people's potentials and capabilities, and his limited comprehension in analyzing developments and deriving lessons from these developments in order to correct his previous reckless and confused decisions that have placed the region on the edge of a war that threatens world peace and security with the worst consequences and catastrophes.

Without even noticing it, George Bush was the victim of his own anger against Iraq by making lies, falsehoods, and shallow judgments that are characterized by stupid and naive simplification of reality and issues. He uttered with high tone provocative words and expressions that are inappropriate in earnest, balanced, and quiet dialogue or talk.

While he was speaking his words in a feverish race, as recommended by his advisers, who dictated the words and ideas that he memorized so as not to embarrass himself, Mr. Bush forgot that he was addressing a genuine people who built the first human civilization; taught mankind the first alphabet; removed the darkness of ignorance, backwardness, and illiteracy by the light of its science, arts, and culture; and legislated the first laws for mankind. He bypassed the bounds of propriety when he reviewed American characteristics that have been proven by events to be fabricated and false.

If we assume that the ideas and expressions presented by Bush were neither prepared nor dictated to him by his advisers, he did not bring anything new other than what we already know about him and about the mentality of those with him in the U.S. Administration. He only presented a number of new claims and slanders topped by the expression introducing him to the Iraqi viewer as if he was speaking on behalf of the international community.

It seems that the Washington leaders led by Bush, who has greatly harmed his country's interests after being tempted by military adventures, are still acting the same way when their presidential campaign was at its peak and the tens of millions of the Gulf dollars were pouring into their pockets, because the candidate is faithful to the Gulf oil barrel and the Zionist gun and enjoys the support, sympathy, and backing of those who stole the Arab wealth and the traitors of the nation and its historical pan-Arab rights. On this basis, the American President allowed himself to speak in the name of the Arabs also, forgetting that those who gave him the authority to be in charge of their affairs are treacherous rulers who are not from the people and the real leaders who are unanimous on standing in the Iraqi trench and declaring that they have volunteered to defend it against any aggressive imperialist attempt against its security and sovereignty.

All that Bush said yesterday does not need much effort to be refuted and to expose its contradictions and its deviation from the tangible facts and clear realities. But what really calls for serious thought is his belief that his words could affect the Iraqis. This confirms what we said in the past that the American President is the victim of a great illusion and mistake in viewing things. His aides and advisers shoulder part of the responsibility for this and he personally shoulders the other part because of his arrogance and insistence on not learning from the Iraqis. President Saddam Husayn warned him earlier against this and against the dangers of falling under this illusion.

We believe that it is really a shame for the president of a superpower to speak with confused logic that lacks objectivity by not portraying things as they are—thus, drawing the attention of others—and by making judgments about which he only understands what meets his personal interests and trivial gains from petrodollars.

Mr. Bush should have thought many times before recording his speech, which has greatly harmed his reputation and deepened the conviction of the sons of Iraq in the fairness of their position and cause. However, he seems to insist on accomplishing the deal about which he spoke—the deal that serves his retarded small agents and which has nothing to do with the interests of the American people.

Paper Derides U.S. Criticism of Amman Meeting

JN2009083490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0525 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that Washington's shock over the resolutions of the Arab Popular Forces Conference in Jordan resulted in the U.S. officials making delirious statements on what they term Iraq's relations with Palestinian terrorists.

In its editorial today, the paper expresses confidence that the statements by the CIA director and the U.S. State Department spokeswoman reflect the U.S. Administration's feeling of frustration, shock, and solid failure over Iraq's Arab and Islamic depth as embodied by the conference.

It stresses that the conference call for attacking U.S. interests through all means and in all places once Iraq is attacked has placed imperialism and its allies face-to-face with the entire Arab nation.

The paper adds: Bush, his allies, and his small agents were very much eager to falsify the nature of and the sides to the battle. They tried to portray the crisis they fabricated as a conflict between Iraq alone on one side and the entire world on the other. They continued to ignore the fact that the conflict is between the entire

Arab nation supported by all honorable and faithful men on one side, and imperialism, its allies, and its small, worthless lackeys in the region on the other. The Arab Popular Forces Conference has declared and highlighted this fact.

Proceeding from this fact, AL-THAWRAH warns the Bush administration that retaliation to its aggression will not come only from Iraq; it will be a comprehensive and destructive Arab retaliation. The paper says that the Amman conference was very successful, not only in laying down a strategy for the Arab masses to confront the hostile imperialist scheme, but also in deepening the U.S. impasse and upsetting the calculations of the United States, its allies, and its agents in the region.

Kurdish Leader on Efforts To Unite Opposition

PM1809125690 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14 Sep 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Jalal Talabani Tells AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI: "Invasion of Kuwait United Opposition's Efforts To Topple Saddam"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] Damascus, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI—Dr. Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Iraq, has emphasized that efforts are being made to unify the Iraqi opposition under a front comprising all the influential Iraqi forces—Arab and Kurds, Sunni and Shi'a, left and right—representing all groups of the Iraqi people.

In his statement to AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI during his visit to Damascus to meet with a group of Iraqi opposition leaders, Talabani added that the main aim of setting up the front is to salvage Iraq from the ruling fascist dictatorship and to establish a democratic and constitutional regime that would ensure democratic rights and freedoms for all and rescue Iraq from the military adventures carried out against Iran and then against the fraternal Kuwaiti people.

He said that the Iraqi opposition leaders and symbol's meeting would be held in Damascus next week.

On that meeting's link with the invasion of Kuwait, Dr. Talabani said that efforts have continued for a long time to consolidate the front, but the invasion of Kuwait and the resulting crisis brought the meeting forward and prompted the Iraqi opposition to unite its efforts.

On whether there are any vestiges of the previous disputes among opposition factions, Dr. Talabani said: I believe that all are agreed on the fundamental points—toppling the dictatorship, establishing a constitutional regime, and rescuing Iraq from military adventures. Efforts are continuing in that direction.

Asked whether there is coordination with Syria in that regard, Dr. Talabani said that the opposition have had their offices in Damascus for about 20 years and that the struggle relationship between the Iraqi and Syrian opposition is very good. He added that the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, the Iraqi command, which is part of the national Ba'th Party in Syria, is a party to the front which we are seeking to form now.

He said: We are against Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and against the invasion. We believe that disputes between the two fraternal peoples should be resolved through dialogue. This unity among Arab peoples should be achieved by the people's free will, democracy, understanding, and agreement among all parties—not by tanks and heavy artillery which undermine the spiritual and principled foundations of Arab unity.

With regard to his opinion of how to resolve the Kuwaiti crisis in view of current factors, Talabani said that he believes that atmosphere is moving toward a military confrontation, because the Iraqi dictatorship refuses to withdraw from Kuwait and the post-Cold War situation cannot allow such an invasion.

Resident Arabs Given Deadline To Return

JN2009132490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Iraq has decided to allow all Arabs with residence permits and who are willing to return to Iraq or Kuwait to do so as of today and until 26 October, after which date they will forfeit that right. The announcement was made by the Iraqi Embassy in Amman, making it plain that the measure only affects Arab nationals.

RCC Merges Kuwait Airways, Iraqi Airways

JN1909200690 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 17 Sep 90 p 6

["Revolution Command Council Decision No. 269"]

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decision No: 269

Dated: 19 Safar 1411 Hegira, 9 September 1990

Decision: In accordance with Paragraph A, Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

First: 1. To dissolve the Kuwait Airways Corporation. Its movables and immovables, rights, and obligations are passed to Iraqi Airways, which should register those in accordance with domestic and international legal procedures.

2. The Kuwait Airways Corporation's holdings are to be handed over to Iraqi Airways as soon as this decision is enforced.

Second: To cancel the activities of the Kuwait Airways Corporation abroad. Their holdings to be handed over to the Iraqi Airways in accordance with the first paragraph of this decision.

Third: The Iraqi Airways broad of directors is to make a comprehensive survey of the Kuwait Airways Corporation staff and determine the work force in light of the requirements of current operations and the central instructions.

Fourth: The drawing rights granted to Kuwait Airways Corporation staff are canceled as soon as this decision is enforced.

Fifth: Any provision contrary to the clauses of this decision is considered null and void.

Sixth: This decision goes into effect as of the date of its publication in the official gazette. Competent ministers and the concerned departments shall enforce it.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

Journalists March to U.S. Embassy, Deliver Memo

JN1909161190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—Iraqi journalists organized a protest march today to the U.S. Embassy to denounce the imperialist conspiracy against our great Iraq and glorious Arab nation.

Representatives of Iraqi journalists handed to the U.S. charge d'affairs a protest memorandum addressed to U.S. President Bush in which the Iraqi journalists reaffirmed their rejection and denunciation of the abhorrent U.S.-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation, and their rejection of the invading foreign troops' desecration of the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

The Iraqi journalists stressed their absolute readiness to defend the great Iraq under the banner of our people's leader, President Saddam Husayn.

Envoy Meets Tariq 'Aziz; Work Group Established

PY1909180890 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The Iraqi Government has created a special group to study the release of Brazilians who are in Iraq on a work contract, according to Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, who was interviewed by our correspondent Silvio Bocanera in Baghdad a short while ago.

[Begin recording] [Bocanera] The much expected meeting between Brazilian envoy, Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz finally took place in Baghdad today. Shortly before this meeting, we asked the Iraqi minister about the status of Brazilians who have not managed to leave Iraq. The initial remarks by Minister 'Aziz were almost encouraging. He told us that the Brazilians can leave whenever they want. However, he did lay down one condition: They can leave only after they fulfill their contract with the Iraqi Government.

This is where the problem gets complicated, as far as the Brazilians are concerned. The Iraqi Government believes that the contracts with companies like Mendes Junior, Volkswagen, and Maxion are still valid. How can this stalemate be resolved?

[Flecha de Lima] I can tell you that in view of the doubts concerning the interpretation of Iraqi regulations, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has appointed a working group made up of the deputy foreign minister, the head of the consular department, and the head of the Latin American department, to study together with the Interior Ministry, the unique situation of the Brazilians. This group immediately set to work, and I am expecting some information today, as soon as they reach a conclusion. [end recording]

In Brasilia, Itamaraty has reaffirmed its confidence in the Brazilian special diplomatic mission. Itamaraty Spokesman Vicente Pimentel expects Brazilians to be released as soon as possible.

[Begin Pimentel recording] It is better not to set dates. We expect a positive solution, and we want them to leave in a matter of hours, if possible, as soon as possible. [end recording]

Itamaraty is still betting on the success of the special diplomatic mission. However, should that not be the case the Brazilian Government will discontinue direct negotiations with the Iraqi Government and will channel its negotiations through the United Nations.

'Ivri Says Iraqi Nuclear Power Unacceptable

TA2009084190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] David 'Ivri, the director general of the Defense Ministry, says Israel must make every effort to prevent Saddam Husayn from acquiring a nuclear capability. 'Ivri, who served as Air Force commander at the time of Israel's air strike against the Iraqi reactor in 1981, also says the most appropriate way should be found depending upon the situation. The official says that today more than ever he is convinced about the success of the Israeli air strike nine years ago. He also disclosed that at the time it was thought that the air attack would buy Israel three to five years' time, but nine years have already passed.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 20 September notes that, in an interview with army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, 'Ivri noted that "if a confrontation breaks out in the Persian Gulf, Saddam Husayn will want to involve Israel so he can turn it into an Israeli-Arab conflict. But, he pointed out, Israel and the United States are trying to prevent that.

["Referring to the Iraqi missiles, Reserve Major General 'Ivri said that Saddam Husayn is the only one who knows whether Iraq has chemical warheads. The Iraqis have chemical weapons and surface-to-surface missiles and consequently, it is quite likely that they have chemical warheads, although this has not been confirmed.

["The Defense Ministry's director general went on to say that serious efforts are constantly under way to prepare the home front.

["With regard to the Arrow missile, 'Ivri said it provides an answer to the threat of surface-to-surface missiles. This is almost the only missile of its kind in the world that is in the development stage. We have learned a great deal from this project in terms of technology and knowhow.

["'Ivri added that Israel's space capability experienced an important boost, and remarked that resources and thought should be directed to this area."]

Arens Views Regional Events, Ties With U.S.

TA1909093390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Sep 90 p 5

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Joshua Brilliant; date not given]

[Text] Question—Do you think we are still heading for a clash in the Gulf area, or are we moving away from one?

Answer—I don't know whether the decision has already been taken. I would assume (the Americans) would consider the use of military force a measure of last resort, and they would much prefer that the blockade achieve the objectives. I suppose they are going to give the blockade a chance.

Q—For how long?

A—My guess is that almost every day they are taking the measure of the effectiveness of the blockade. And if X months from now they feel the blockade is working, but it's going to take another Y months to really hit home, then my guess is they will wait the extra Y months.

If X months go by and their evaluation is that it's really not having any impact, then maybe they'll begin to think of a measure of last resort.

Q—Can you predict what the Middle East will look like after the crisis?

A—That's a very dangerous game. There are not many people who three months ago guessed what the Middle East would look like now, though we in Israel had the most realistic appreciation of all. I think the Gulf crisis has not brought about fundamental changes. I don't think it's going to change.

Q—Syria seems to be drawing close to the U.S. Do you see any prospects for peace talks with Damascus?

A—It's difficult to be optimistic about that at the present time. Syria is run by a dictator who has displayed great hostility to Israel, has been involved in wars against Israel. He has also shown that he does not hesitate to use violence in pursuit of his political ends, whether against Israel or in Lebanon.

I would certainly like to believe that this crisis has brought about a change in (Syrian President Hafiz) al-Asad's views, that he has become more benign and benevolent, and more interested in making peace with Israel.

I have no doubt (Egyptian President Husni) Mubarak is doing his best to try to convince al-Asad to move towards peace with Israel. But I would hesitate to speculate right now as to what the probability of success would be.

Q—Do you see Israel and Syria agreeing on the Golan?

A—Most of us tend to base our thinking on the premise that once negotiations start, we also arrive at an agreement. That rather naive premise is based on the one single precedent that we have—that we started negotiating with Egypt and, lo and behold, we did arrive at an agreement. We all know how we arrived at agreement—Israel made all the concessions.

Based on that single, rather unique precedent, to assume that every time Israel begins negotiations with an Arab country, there will also be an agreement, is a little over-optimistic.

Nevertheless, the negotiations are the first step. And if they don't bring about an agreement right away, maybe in time they will bring about renewed negotiations that eventually will bring about an agreement. This is why we are very much interested in negotiating directly with Syria. Whether that will bring about an agreement, I don't know. From our point of view there is no reason why it shouldn't.

From our point of view, it is difficult to see why the Golan Heights, which are for Syria a small fraction of Syrian territory, an almost insignificant fraction of Syrian territory, should become the major dimension of future relations between Israel and Syria.

We will certainly do anything in our power to reach an agreement while protecting our basic interests, and the Golan Heights is a very important part in Israel's security interests.

Q—Is Israel really a strategic asset to the U.S.? When you started strategic cooperation with Washington, the Americans thought of Israel as part of a ring around the Soviet Union. In the meantime, the international scene has changed.

A—I never have, and I do not now, think of Israel as a strategic asset of the U.S. Just as I don't think that the U.S. is a strategic asset of Israel. We have a long tradition of very close relationships between Israel and the U.S. that serve the mutual interests of the two countries...My own feeling is that the relaxation in the cold war, the reduction in the presence of U.S. military forces in Europe that will accompany that relaxation, makes strategic cooperation with the U.S. more important rather than less important.

Q—But these six weeks demonstrated that the best thing we can do for the Americans is to keep quiet and maintain a low profile.

A—I really do not accept your premise and I take some umbrage even at the kind of terminology that you use. I am very surprised at you. You're an Israeli, after all. Israel should keep quiet? Keep a low profile? Who has said that?

You ask yourself, if you want to take that point of view, whether people in Washington today would feel better in the present circumstances if Israel didn't exist. That would be the answer to your question.

Q—There have been some reports that the Iraqis developed chemical warheads for their intermediate missiles. Do you believe it?

A—We've had varying intelligence reports on that subject. They may have chemical warheads, they may have (biological weapons). They do not have atomic warheads at this time, but they're working on it.

Q—Let us turn to the question of gas masks...It takes missiles four minutes to get here from Iraq—the intelligence does not promise an advance warning. I understand that at the outset of the crisis, the defense establishment feared distribution of gas masks would cause panic. If you hand them out right now, you won't get that panicky reaction. However, if the situation deteriorates, and *then* you will feel the need to distribute the masks—there will be panic. So why not distribute them now?

A—We will do whatever is necessary without creating any panic.

Q—How has the recent supply of advanced western weaponry to several Arab countries affected Israel?

A—The American policy (of assuring Israel's) qualitative edge is not being implemented any more. We don't have a situation in which the U.S. is selling Israel equipment of higher quality than it is selling the Arab armed forces.

France and England are selling the best equipment they have and the result, in terms of weaponry imports, is that Israel cannot maintain a qualitative edge over the Arab armies.

(Nevertheless), we *do* have a qualitative edge. We have it because our defense industries have succeeded in developing weaponry that in many areas is more advanced than anything that exists.

If we have to go to war now, the enemy will find the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] with technological surprises, with weapons systems that are superior to anything they have, and I think that they don't even know about.

Q—Suppose the Iraqis do attack us, how much damage could they cause? The IDF's Planning Branch studied that.

A—It makes no sense to try to make that kind of an estimate. Our ability to defend ourselves against any Iraqi threat is very great. Much more important (is) our ability to deter Iraqi aggression, (and that) is very great.

Q—What concepts guide you in dealing with the territories? Where have you succeeded and where haven't you?

A—Our policy is based on a number of principles. We have to ensure the safety of the people living in the area. Jews and Arabs. I say first Jews and then Arabs, even though there are more Arabs than Jews in the area, because the purpose of the intifada was to make life unbearable for Jews and make it dangerous to travel on the roads. That's something that I said to the IDF has got to be changed.

Q—You yourself were stoned on the way to Teqo'a.

A—Yes. Most Israelis who have traveled on the roads have probably undergone that kind of sobering experience. We've had a significant improvement in these last few months. Still not enough, because I think we have to strive to achieve complete safety on the roads.

I also feel it is my duty to ensure the security of the Palestinian population. Terrorist groups are trying to impose a reign of terror. Hardly a day goes by without some Palestinian being killed by (another) Palestinian.

We've (also) made a very determined effort to bring down the level of violence between Israeli troops and the Palestinian population. Fatalities engender a chain of violence, further demonstrations, friction, and more fatalities. The army has been very successful in breaking this cycle.

I have been spending a great deal of my time talking to Palestinians. I do this every week, usually more than once a week. The area of agreement with the vast majority of the Palestinian population is that we want a return to normalcy, that violence is not achieving anything certainly not for them. And that the elimination of violence is a necessary precondition for us to be able to move forward in the political process.

Q—I'd like to turn to the Ostrovsky case...

A—Oh, I don't know anything about that. Leave me alone on that. I am not in charge of the Mosad.

Q—How would you compare the defense establishment now with what you saw during your previous tenure here?

A—I see the fruits of decisions I took in my previous tenure. That gives me some sense of satisfaction.

Q—Can you give an example?

A—I can give you many. I made a decision to establish the Ground Forces Command, which I think is the only major reorganization in the IDF since 1948. That provided a focused, overall view of the needs of the ground forces, not just the separate interests put forward by the infantry, the armor, the engineers and the artillery. Today we have a more streamlined, efficient, logical management of the needs of the ground forces in terms of developing new weapons, tactics, procuring weapons, and training the soldiers.

The agreement of strategic cooperation...has developed a network of relationships between people in the armed forces of Israel and the U.S. Not just between ministers, or prime ministers and presidents, and not just between chiefs of staff—it goes down the line. That kind of relationship has many important side benefits.

Arens Comments on Meeting in U.S.

TA1909122990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe "this morning" at Ben-Gurion Airport upon his return from the United States—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, his ministry's Director General David 'Ivri, military aide Colonel Shim'on Hefetz, and media adviser Dani Nave, returned to Israel this morning. They were received at the airport by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, Deputy Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, and Intelligence Branch Chief Amnon Shahaq. They held an hour-long meeting at the airport.

As a result of the talks held by the defense minister and the defense ministry director general, Israel has been promised 15 F-15 planes, 10 Yas'ur [Sikorsky CH-53] helicopters, two Patriot antiaircraft batteries, and other equipment. The talks focused mainly on the Gulf crisis and aid to Israel, said Minister Arens upon his return.

[Arens] The meetings were serious. We discussed the Gulf crisis, and I had an opportunity to present our needs. These meetings have to be viewed as part of a series of talks and of our uninterrupted contacts with the Americans in the hope that we will understand them and they will understand us. We hope that as a result, we will receive the equipment we require in the present circumstances.

[Menashe] There have been reports that Israel has received—some of them on lease—several items, such as Patriot missiles, F-15 aircraft, and Apache helicopters.

[Arens] I believe the Apache issue was concluded a long time ago.

[Menashe] Additional Apache helicopters.

[Arens] At this stage at least, we have not received a promise for additional Apache's. There are signs, however, that the United States is beginning to understand our needs, and I hope these signs mean that we will eventually receive what we believe we require. Certain things were indeed promised but, as I said, we still have some way to go.

[Menashe] Some of it on lease, some to be paid for, and some gratis?

[Arens] We—or rather they—are looking for different ways to help us without creating new burdens on their budget, which, as you know, is a ponderous problem these days since the U.S. suffers from a big deficit that it is trying to solve through legislation. So, there is a technical problem, too: the need to provide aid without making the administration's situation difficult vis-a-vis the Congress.

[Menashe] In your talks, did you raise the issue of the Arab countries' vast procurement, mainly that of Saudi Arabia?

[Arens] Yes. You can trust me to present the picture fully and, I hope, convincingly. The Saudi deal stands at an astronomical figure—$20 billion—and it causes concern, because, as I explained there, it will significantly tip the balance of power in the region and should, therefore, be accompanied by military aid to Israel. Such aid will offset the change expected in the wake of the deal.

[Menashe] Was the issue of Israeli-U.S. intelligence cooperation discussed?

[Arens] I would prefer not to go into detail, not in the field of intelligence which, as you know, is classified. I believe silence should be observed here.

[Menashe] My visit was very brief. To sum up the defense minister, he stressed, in reply to a question, that all the talks focused on Israel's need and on the Gulf crisis. The Palestinian issue, which is important, added Arens, was not raised either by us or the Americans.

Govrin Optimistic on Future Soviet Relations

TA1909113190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Sep 90 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yosef Govrin, the Foreign Ministry's assistant director general for East European affairs, reported upon his return from Moscow that the Soviet Union would in the not too distant future resume relations with Israel. Govrin took part in the talks conducted by a team of senior Foreign Ministry officials with officials of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department.

Govrin reported to Foreign Minister David Levi that the Soviets made no mention of any conditions for the resumption of relations, but that one should not infer from this that they have given up on their prerequisite of an international conference. At the same time, the Soviets said they would be willing to examine other notions likely to promote the process.

Authoritative sources in Moscow emphasized that the resumption of relations hinges on Israel's consent to have some international element deal with the conflict. Observers in Jerusalem view this Soviet pronouncement as a softening in the Soviet position. Nevertheless, seeing that the Israeli Government objects to any form of international involvement, the main stumbling block to such a development persists.

The Soviet officials pointed out that they see no reason to link the Gulf crisis to the Israeli-Arab conflict. Nevertheless, they stressed that they regard the conflict as part "of the general deterioration of the situation in the region."

Iraq Forcing Kuwaitis Out of Kuwait

JN1909171690 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The Belgian foreign minister today said that his government has received reports confirming that the Iraqis are doing all they can to force Kuwaitis to leave Kuwait. It is believed that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn might be planning to settle Palestinians instead. Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens declined to indicate the source of these reports.

Meanwhile, refugees at the Saudi-Kuwaiti al-Khafji border point have said that, in practice, Palestinians have been administering Kuwaiti affairs since the Iraqi invasion. It is to be noted that Palestinians have occupied important positions in Kuwait for four decades; however, since the Iraqi invasion their influence has increased. For example, some are driving Kuwaiti police cars, and are guiding the Iraqi Forces in the occupied territories. Refugees, however, added that in general the status of Palestinians has not improved, especially in the economic sector. In fact, the contrary has happened because many of them feel that they have lost their homeland for the second time.

In another development, sources in Amman say that in the past three weeks Saudi Arabia has expelled not fewer than 50 Jordanians. Jordanian sources attribute this measure to the anger of Saudi authorities at the Jordanian position and the fluctuating Jordanian policy.

Gulf States' Support of Palestinians 'Falsehood'

TA1909180590 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 15 Sep 90 p 7

[Article by 'Abd-al-Razzaq Husayn Wahba: "The Gulf States and the Palestinian Problem"]

[Text] Since the invasion of the land of the two holy mosques by U.S. vanguard forces, the world has been asking: What is the Gulf States' position toward the Palestinian problem? Several days ago a Jerusalem-based newspaper reported that a Jewish rabbi in Saudi Arabia will issue his instructions, advice, and guidance, and will lead the Jewish new year prayers for U.S. forces there. Such a thing has not happened since the days of the Prophet.

The Saudi king invited his American friends to protect the land of the two holy mosques! Why does the Saudi al-Fahd claim that America is the friend of Muslims? Doesn't he know that seeking help from the enemies of Islam is blasphemy? Is he completely unaware of the image of Arabs in the United States? Has Fahd not seen his picture on the doors of restaurants and other places with a warning: "Blacks and dogs not allowed?" Doesn't he understand English?

Some Arab countries have proposed the establishment of a political and economic alliance between the nine countries that voted against the resolution of the treachery summit in Cairo. In my opinion this is the most appropriate proposal for confronting and reacting to the challenges being imposed on Arab and Islamic nations by the imperialists. Unfortunately, some reactionary Arab regimes rejected this proposal under the pretext that it could lead to fragmentation of the Arab homeland! Is the Arab homeland not already divided between supporters and opponents of Iraq?

The Gulf crisis has lifted the mask of U.S. agents in our region. Mubarak's position on the Gulf crisis is evidence of this "leader's" subservience to imperialism and reaction. Instead of providing housing to Egyptian workers who have fled the Gulf, improving Egypt's economic and domestic situation, and providing a life of dignity for the Egyptian people, we see him sending his armies to Saudi Arabia to help the U.S. forces in the Gulf strike at Iraq. In the view of the "great struggler," Mubarak, attack is the best means of defense.

Al-Asad, the noble leader, great struggler, and enemy of the West, has carried out the most repugnant massacres of his own people. We shall forget neither the massacres he committed against his own people in Hamah nor the recent ones against the heroic Syrian people, who stood united against foreign intervention in the Gulf and in opposition to the Syrian regime's policy regarding this crisis.

The recent Soviet-U.S. summit in Helsinki proved to the entire world the Gulf's importance to the two superpowers, although neither of the superpowers has addressed the Palestinian problem over the past 23 years. This problem has been discussed marginally in the superpowers' summits, but not as the principal topic. The PLO's position on the Gulf crisis is known. This position is based on the right of self-determination for all the region's nations, withdrawal of foreign forces from the Arabian Gulf, and resolution of the problem between Iraq and Kuwait within an Arab framework. What crime have the Palestinians committed with this position? Why have some Gulf states started deporting the Palestinians, and why have others stopped their aid to the Palestinian people?

The Palestinian people need the Gulf states' political and moral support to continue their struggle. The decision by some Gulf states to halt support for the Palestinian people, and at the same time to support the U.S. forces instead, is decisive evidence of the falsehood of their claim to be supporters and backers of the Palestinian cause.

Moda'i Leaves For Talks With IMF, U.S, EC

TA1909115190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The finance minister has left for London en route to the United States, where he will participate in IMF talks. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that in meetings with senior U.S. Administration officials, Minister Moda'i will probably raise Israel's request for increased economic and military aid, and will reiterate the request for a write-off of Israel's debt to the United States.

Minister Moda'i will also meet with EC finance ministers and state banks' governors. He will return to Israel on the eve of Yom Kippur [28 September].

Population, Immigration Increase at High Level

TA1909115790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Sep 90 p A1

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Excerpt] At the beginning of the new Jewish calendar year Israel's population is estimated to total 4,705,000 people, 3,842,000 (81.7 percent) of them Jews. This was announced yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Israel's population grew by 3.8 percent during the outgoing Jewish calendar year, compared with a growth of 1.6 percent the previous year. The Jewish population increased by 3.9 percent, trebling the increase registered two Jewish calendar years ago, while the non-Jewish population increased by 3.1 percent.

Nearly 155,000 immigrants have arrived in Israel since last Rosh Hashana, 88 percent of them from the Soviet Union. The number of immigrants arriving in Israel during the outgoing Jewish calendar year was the highest since the 1948-1951 period of mass immigration. [passage omitted]

Minister Details Country's Economic Situation

JN2009093390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Sep 90 p 10

[Text] Amman—Finance Minister Basil Jardanah has said that the economic circumstances Jordan will encounter as a result of the Gulf crisis will be extremely difficult unless it receives assistance from the international community by the end of next month.

He told a press conference at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel yesterday afternoon that Jordan is economically harmed by the Gulf crisis and the application of economic sanctions as stipulated by the UN Security Council Resolution 661. He added that until the beginning of the crisis Jordan was able to achieve reasonable stability in its national economy and did not hesitate to honor its foreign commitments. He indicated that Jordan's expected losses during the first year are estimated at $2.144 billion and that Jordan will need $1.5 billion in aid to avoid economic collapse.

At the outset of his press conference, which was attended by a large number of local reporters and foreign correspondents, Jardanah spoke about a study prepared by the Finance Ministry on 19 September 1990 on Jordan's expected losses as a result of the Gulf crisis and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 661. The study included influencial factors in assessing the losses inflicted on the Jordanian economy as a result of the current situation, excluding the [private] sector activities.

He indicated that Jordan will face the problem of the return of expatriates working in Kuwait—a problem which will further aggravate unemployment which amounts to 15 percent of the overall labor force, especially since these people have experience and hold university degrees.

The following is the full text of the finance minister's statement:

The following statement is an assessment, but not a final one, of Jordan's economic losses as a result of the Gulf crisis and the implementation of Security Council Resolution No. 661, which called for economic sanctions on Iraq. The statement takes into consideration the basic elements related to this issue, excluding some of the private sector activities and its role in the Iraqi economy. The losses are as follows:

1. Losses in investments and real savings resulting from the deposits of Jordanians working in Kuwait, whether in Kuwaiti dinars or hard currency, as well as losses in interest charged on their remittances and the capital and whatever they save.

2. The funds due to the private sector in Jordan from the Iraqi Government and its agencies, and the Iraqi private sector which deals with Jordanian exporters and contractors.

3. The loss of the Jordanian private sector companies, such as truck owners and manufacturing companies, which basically export their products to Iraq.

In view of its geographical location and its membership in the Arab Common Market, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the Arab League, Jordan has wide economic relations with Iraq. In fact, Iraq has for a long time been the main trade partner of Jordan, which provides the easiest way to transport goods between Iraq to the Red Sea. Forty percent of Jordan's national exports, except for phosphate and potash, go to Iraq. Jordan is expected to lose more if we take into consideration its economic and financial relations with Kuwait. Such relations outweigh traditional trade relations because they include extrememly important aspects; namely, employment and capital market.

Jordan's overall losses are expected to exceed $2 billion during the first year as a result of the crisis and sanctions.

The dimensions of this problem can be summed up as follows:

First: Jordan's commodity exports to Iraq, Kuwait, and other Countries.

Jordan's export losses to Iraq and Kuwait are expected to reach $280 million in 1990. This is 30 percent of Jordan's national exports. It is also more than 60 percent of Jordan's noncommodity exports.

The prevailing state of instability in the region has also reduced the importance of the Port of al-'Aqabah as a loading and unloading port. Consequently, there has been a big drop in the number of ships available to transport Jordanian exports, especially phosphates, potash, and cement.

This is expected to reduce exports to other markets by 30 percent; or the equivalent of $160 million.

Second: financing the budget and retrieving loans from Iraq.

The total grant which both Iraq and Kuwait have pledged to pay to Jordan to finance the 1990 budget amounts to $185 million. Without this grant the Jordanian budget and the balance of payments will be under great pressure.

Regarding Iraq's repayment of loans to Jordan, the total Iraqi debts to Jordan since the beginning of 1990 amount to $310 million, plus the interest on them.

If these debts are not paid, Jordan will incur a capital loss of $359 million. Iraq should have paid the following debts, calculated in millions of dollars:

First Year	Second Year	Third Year
144	144	30
25	14	2
169	158	32

Third: transit trade and tourism.

Transit trade from the Port of al-'Aqabah to Iraq constitutes an important and major activity in the Jordanian economy.

Jordan's revenues from port fees, transportation, packing, and internal freight are estimated at over $250 million annually. If this major activity stops, the current account in the balance of payments, the Gross National Product, and employment in the country will be adversely affected.

This also applies in the case of the tourism sector. It is estimated that some 750,000 tourists visit the country annually. Of these 72,000 visit the country on package tours, essentially to al-'Aqabah, 50,000 are roving businessmen, and 155,000 are Arab tourists who usually spend the summer months in Amman.

The total expenditure of these tourists is estimated at $460 million. The drop in this revenue as a result of the recent developments is estimated at 50 percent; or the equivalent of $230 million.

Fourth: remittances of Jordanians working in Kuwait and increase in imports.

Jordan has estimated that the 1990 remittances of Jordanians working abroad would reach more than $800 million, of which more than 50 percent would come from Kuwait.

According to these estimates, the number of Jordanians working in Kuwait is more than 120,000. By adding their families, this number rises to approximately 420,000.

The estimates show that as a result of the present crisis, some 50 percent of these expatriates would return to Jordan. Thus, Jordan's revenue from the remittances would be gravely jeopardized. The country would also witness the following negative developments:

a. An increase in imports by eight percent; or the equivalent of $220 million due to the mass influx of expatriates.

b. A drop in the value of the remittances by Jordanian expatriates amounting to about $320 million.

Fifth: imports of crude oil and fuel:

Jordan imports approximately 22 million barrels of oil and petroleum byproducts per year, 90 percent of which is imported from Iraq and Kuwait. Kuwait supplies Jordan with $60 million worth of crude oil and fuel per year in the form of grants, while the rest is imported from Iraq. This is financed by the Jordanian debts due on Iraq and by arranging other trade deals. The oil imports represent one sixth of the Jordanian imports. Jordan gets oil and fuel from Iraq at favorable terms and with very convenient financing. In July the price of oil which Jordan received was around $65 per tonne while the world price was around $110. If Jordan has to search for other sources of oil, it will have to endure an additional yearly burden of $36 million on its imports of oil which total 800,000 tonnes.

Additionally, Jordan will face other costs to import approximately 16 million barrels of crude oil from new sources at the new world price instead of the $16 a barrel which Iraq was committed to. The total increase in the cost of importing oil to Jordan is expected to reach $180 million a year. And, until Jordan makes new arrangements to face its oil needs, it will continue to import part of its needs of crude oil and petroleum from Iraq.

Sixth: other losses:

The recent Gulf crisis has led to a sharp increase in the insurance premiums on commodities arriving in, or shipped from the al-'Aqabah Port and via Royal Jordanian. The increase in insurance premiums and the freight fares is estimated at $120 million at least.

While the foreign governments and international organizations and societies are offering good aid to help face the needs of evacuees, the Jordanian Government faces additional direct and indirect costs by providing water, electricity, and medical and environmental services, in addition to the cost of the government-subsidized commodities, part of the cost of the relief materials, the shortage in services, providing shelter, and so forth. The direct and indirect costs which Jordan endures as a result of the urgent relief cases are estimated at $30 million.

The following is a table showing the above mentioned losses, calculated in millions of dollars: (For the First Year)

1.	a. Exports of goods to Iraq and Kuwait	280
	b. Exports of goods to other countries	160
2.	a. Assistance to the budget	185
	b. Forfeiture of Iraqi repayment of debts	169
3.	a. Transit business	250
	b. Tourism	230
4.	a. Remittances of Jordanians working in Kuwait	320
	b. Increase in imports	220
5. Oil imports		180
6. Other losses:	a. Increase in freight and insurance premiums	120
	b. Cost of emergency humanitarian relief operations for evacuees	30
Total:		2144

Seven: Servicing the foreign debt:

The drop in the budget's revenues which coincides with the growing pressures on the government resulting from the return of expatriates and providing the necessary social services for them will certainly lead to increasing the budget's deficit. Consequently, further serious economic difficulties will be added to those which Jordan is facing now, such as slow growth; increase in unemployment, which now stands at 18 percent of the labor force; servicing Jordan's foreign debts, including the original debt and the interests, which will cause serious repercussions on investment and development at large.

The extent of the foreign debt problem as it stood at the end of 1989 can be summed up in the following table, with figures calculated in millions of dollars:

	Of the Gross Domestic Product
1. Jordan's foreign debts	8,400; i.e. 220 percent
2. Debts annual installments	760; i.e. 21 percent
3. Debts annual interests	750; i.e. 15 percent
including interest on military loans	350; i.e. 9 percent

Although the rescheduling of the original debts will ease the burden to some extent, servicing such a high rate of interest will put tremendous pressure on the budget and on the balance of payment. This would deprive the economy of the required finance to achieve the objectives of development as reflected in the economic rectification program.

Jordan is now passing through a critical economic situation characterized by high rates of unemployment and inflation and serious difficulties in servicing foreign debts.

Jordan began to implement the rectification program reached with the IMF with a view to restoring growth rates and handling domestic and foreign imbalance.

However, the success of this program very much depends on increasing Jordan's exports and receiving additional financial support in the form of grants and transfers.

Surely, the Gulf crisis has reversed these objectives completely. It hits the foundations of our efforts and subjects our economy to full collapse.

If Jordan is compelled to import oil from other sources, its direct losses—apart from the additional burden—will total $2,144 billion, which constitutes 50 percent of the gross domestic product.

To remedy the situation and contain its implications, Jordan needs generous assistance from the world group.

Answering journalists' questions, Jardanah explained that the main problem the Jordanian economy will face is the big gap between its assets and its foreign currency payments, especially that the industrial sector depends mainly on the Iraqi market. He said: We estimate our financial losses during the first year of the crisis at 2 billion dollars. This means a balance-of-payment deficit, and it requires additional finance. Moreover, as a result of the developments of the crisis, the economy will suffer from a bad distribution of resources, especially since the Jordanian industrialists will find it difficult to find alternative markets. The big investment in the transportation industry will also lose as no alternative can easily be found.

He added: If we manage to cover the balance-of-payment deficit, the second problem we are going to face will be to find programs and investments in the country to encourage and compensate the public sector for its losses as a result of the crisis.

On the possibility of Jordan obtaining foreign assistance, Jardanah expressed optimism about Jordan obtaining suitable aid and said: "All indications are that Jordan will obtain suitable foreign aid from several countries, including Japan, Germany, and the European Community [EC]. This will help us contain the problem. But if this aid is not received, then the economy may face the threat of collapse."

He said: We have information that Japan, Germany, and the EC countries will provide Jordan with immediate aid for the budget and the balance of payments. This aid will be in the form of grants and long-term loans. However, I will not give any further details on this subject, because these are still initial offers.

Regarding Jordan's oil imports, the finance minister explained that Jordan is still importing some of its oil requirements from Saudi Arabia. He said: We do not know now the financial terms governing these imports. Jordan is currently paying $16.4 per barrel for oil imported from Iraq. It will be difficult to pay a higher price.

On the other hand, the finance minister denied that Jordan has received offers from either the Kuwaiti Government in exile or Saudi Arabia to compensate it for losses incurred from the Gulf crisis. He also explained that an air embargo on Iraq will not have any significant effect on the Jordanian economy, since the air network between Jordan and Iraq does not have a great effect on the balance of payments or the Gross National Product.

Jardanah explained that Jordan's annual crude oil and fuel requirements amount to 22 million barrels, and that Jordan is still importing a sizable quantity of these requirements from Iraq by tankers overland.

He said: The subject of our oil imports depends on alternative sources and the favorable terms offered to Jordan to buy these quantities.

Asked about the effect of Jordan's pro-Iraq stand on the sources of aid and assistance which Jordan could obtain, the finance minister said: I hope this will not affect Jordan, because Jordan is not a direct party in the crisis, and it has nothing to do with the occupation or annexation of Kuwait.

He added: The losses facing Jordan far exceed the losses and hardships facing other countries under such difficult circumstances. Jordan would lose 50 percent of its Gross National Product. On the other hand, other countries' losses might not exceed four percent. He said: We are facing a serious problem which is not of our own making. All studies also point to the enormity of the problem we are facing. We are certain that the international community knows that and will not withhold financial and technical aid and assistance to Jordan.

The minister said: Jordan will continue to purchase oil from Iraq at reduced prices and suitable financial terms as a temporary stopgap until we find alternative sources with prices that will not cause us any additional damage. Jordan has submitted an official report to the United Nations explaining that the United Nations has permitted certain countries to adopt certain exceptional measures even under the economic sanctions due to the difficult circumstances they are facing.

The minister affirmed that he as finance minister had expected the international community to permit Jordan to continue to export its products to Iraq, especially since they only amount to $200 milion, which is not a large figure by international standards.

Replying to a question on what Jordan needs from the international community, he said not less than $1.5 billion initially, and in the first year only. He added: We would like to see this assistance coming in one package, part of which in the form of grants and the rest for the budget and for financing projects that help the private sector. The other part could be in the form of soft and funding loans. Moreover, Jordan asks for greater aid concerning foreign debts through the reduction of these debts, because rescheduling them under the present circumstances will be useless.

The finance minister stressed that Jordan was able to pay its foreign debts—with some difficulty—until the Gulf crisis emerged. He added: The Central Bank is still able to meet the hard currency needs of citizens and the private sector. Moreover, the dinar's exchange rate has been marked by a reasonable stability.

Asked if the Jordanian dinar will maintain its value under the current circumstances, he said: If Jordan obtains reasonable assistance and aid—and all indications are pointing in that direction—then I do not see any need to devalue the dinar.

Asked whether Jordan expects aid from the Gulf states, he said: We hope to obtain this aid, especially since our relations with the Gulf states are not based on short-term policies. There is a history of good relations between us, and Jordan has helped develop these states' economies by supplying them with experts and qualified people whom Jordan trained with basic economic revenues.

He indicated that Jordan will face an unemployment problem as a result of the return of expatriates, most of whom hold higher degrees, at a time when the country is already suffering from unemployment totaling 15 percent of the overall labor force—mainly educated people with long experience. However, he expressed optimism that in case Jordan gets out of the current crisis, these educated people—once absorbed by the Jordanian economy—will be real assets and be able to make substantial contributions to our economy.

He pointed out that the sum which Jordan guaranteed Iraq is a Jordanian commitment which does not at present constitute a burden for it. The finance minister said the Jordanian treasury considers expenditures on refugees and arrivals an additional burden to the budget, stressing that the treasury has not benefited from any of the relief aid sent to refugees in Jordan.

Editorial on 'Heavy Price' for Dugan's Statement

JN1909105990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Sep 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The War and Political Generals"]

[Text] U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General Michael Dugan is the first in a long list of Gulf crisis victims. Although his mistake was announcing part of a U.S. military plan that would destroy Baghdad and kill tens of thousands of its inhabitants, as imagined by those behind the plan, the punishment he got was very harsh. For he did not reveal any secret to the Iraqis. He only announced what they had already expected. After all, the Iraqis are not sitting down waiting to be showered with rosewater and candies by U.S. aircraft. They know that this imperialist American and European hysteria is after Iraq, with all its loftiness, vigor, and determination to free itself from the weakness, backwardness, and subservience which has been imposed on this nation for decades.

When we say that Gen. Dugan is the first in a long list of Gulf crisis victims, we realize that those instigating war against and calling for the liquidation of Iraq—land, people, vigor, power, and progress—cannot but maintain such a stand and hate the United States for not starting this war against Iraq. These people are under the same illusion as Gen. Dugan, who just paid a heavy price. By that illusion, we mean their belief that Iraq is an easy morsel awaiting the fangs and claws of the greedy, or that its land, airspace, and waters are free to be violated by whoever dispatches his tanks, planes, and vessels to uproot Iraq from its trench with the same ease as the aggression which took place against Panama, Grenada, or the Falklands. The enormity of such an illusion can only be known after the event, which we hope will not take place.

Gen. Dugan is not the first to make such an arrogant statement and to consequently disappear into oblivion. There are many war and political generals who are afraid, rather than too arrogant, to urge Washington to make the difficult decision—to borrow President Bush's own expression—and attack Iraq. These people realize now that they have taken cover under the U.S. armor, they have lost a great deal. They also realize that they can only make up that loss by a U.S. victory represented by the destruction of Iraq. Thus, they are rejecting any move, talk, or signal about the possibility of a political resolution of the Gulf crisis. They consider all efforts to find an Arab solution as an attempt to prevent the military power of the United States and its big and small allies from launching an aggression. They consider this as not being in their interest, even when the entire nation and its peoples and countries are aspiring for peace rather than war, and for a political settlement rather than aggression.

Gen. Dugan has, to everyone's relief, fallen even before a single U.S. aircraft has taken off in the direction of Iraq. If Iraq is now extending its hand for peace, mutual respect, and ending the policy of imposing humiliation, shame, and disgrace on this nation, this very same hand will be extended in anger and power if the other side commits any mistake or embarks on any military adventure. Such an adventure is bound to fail. For God and the millions of angry Arabs and Muslims will fight against injustice, falsehood, and the historic black hatred which the imperialists harbor against us. It will be an opportunity for everyone from the ocean to the Gulf to settle old harsh accounts on land, water, and in space, so that nothing will be left of the enemies. It shall then be God's great victory over His enemies—the enemies of right, justice, and human dignity.

Dugan is not just the name of an American general, but a symbol for scores of terrified war and political generals—because Iraq is holding God's sword, confronting hatred, and opening the door to a new future for a homeland that is rising from its weakness and a nation which is emerging from a state of humiliation.

Minister Denounces U.S. Criticism of Conference

JN2009061090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20-21 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—Jordan Wednesday dismissed criticism by the U.S. over its hosting of a pan-Arab conference attended by leftist leaders in the Arab World, including George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah, saying the gathering and a hardline statement it issued were all part of the democratic life in the country.

"We have demonstrated that we have moved to building a democratic society," Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din told a news conference. "We have democratic institutions, we have freedom of expression," he said. "This is one area where you have to allow for freedom of expression."

The conference, organised by a Jordanian coalition of leftist activists and organisations and attended by over 120 political parties and popular groupings in the Arab World, vehemently criticised the American-led military presence in the Gulf and warned attacks "against American interests everywhere and all means at the same moment an American military attack is launched against Iraq." It also endorsed a call for holy war against the Western presence in Saudi Arabia, which houses Mecca and al-Madinah, Islam's two holiest shrines.

The American criticism of Jordan being the host of the conference was made by State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler. The United States was "surprised and dismayed that this conference took place and we have told the Jordanians so," she told a State Department news briefing on Tuesday. "We want to work with Jordan during and after this crisis in the Gulf. Hosting this conference is very hard to understand."

'Izz-al-Din, appearing at a news conference along with Finance Minister Basil Jardanah Wednesday, countered: "Of course, maybe the reaction from the Americans or from some other parts of the world is linked with what is happening in the region."

"If it had happened before it would not have drawn this reaction," he added.

In any event, he said, "if you want to build a democratic society then you have to allow for freedom of expression. I do not think one should attach much importance to this thing."

In separate comments after his news conference, 'Izz-al-Din said he had no information that the U.S. administration had lodged a formal protest with the Jordanian government over the Kingdom's hosting of the conference.

The U.S. criticism was mainly based on the presence of Habash and Hawatimah at the conference. The leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) are considered "terrorists" by the United States administration.

In her comments Tuesday, spokeswoman Tutwiler specifically referred to their presence at the gathering. "The overt anti- Americansim displayed by the conference and by the calls for the overthrow of Egypt's President (Husni) Mubarak were not surprising, given the guest list of the conference," she said.

"We are appalled by the statements that were made," she said. "Such language is not only inflammatory but it can have the result of inciting the kind of violence which it threatens," she added.

Tutwiler did not refer to certain other specific parts of the final statement of the conference which said its long-term objectives included democracy in the Arab World and repect for Arab human rights.

Refugee Aid Amounts to $57 Million

NC1909110790 Paris AFP in English 1933 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, September 18 (AFP)—Jordan has already spent 57 million dollars to accommodate an estimated half a million refugees who have entered the country from Iraq and Kuwait since August 2, Crown Prince Hasan Ibn-Talal said Tuesday.

The crown prince was speaking during a tour of makeshift transit camps that Jordanian officials fear could be hit with an influx of more than 400,000 more Egyptian and Asian refugees from Kuwait.

Kuwait is currently occupied by Iraqi troops who seized the oil-rich emirate on August 2, sending hundreds of thousands of foreign nationals fleeing first to Iraq and later to Jordan before being repatriated.

After Kuwait, according to Ali 'Atiqah, the United Nations representative here, Jordan has suffered more than any other state in the current Gulf crisis.

He warned of a sharp fall in gross national product triggered by the loss of remittances from some 350,000 Jordanians who have returned home from the Gulf, as well as a decline in tourism revenue.

'Arafat Comments on Arab Solution to Crisis

JN1809195490 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The president of the State of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman today for talks with his majesty the king on the Gulf crisis. President 'Arafat was welcomed upon arrival at the airport by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Marwan al-Qasim and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman. President 'Arafat is accompanied on the visit by PLO Executive Committee Members Salah Khalaf and 'Abdallah Hurani.

The Palestinian president spoke to our reporter Rana Najm about the purpose of this visit.

[Begin recording] [Najm, in progress] ...the new Palestinian peace initiative?

['Arafat] Actually, it is not a Palestinian peace initiative. It is the Arab peace initiative. And we are following the same line of His Majesty King Husayn, who is working hard in this line to achieve Arab solution, Arab peaceful solution.

[Najm] After your visit to Baghdad, do you see any political breakthrough to the issue?

['Arafat] I am optimistic that we can achieve a real comprehensive Arab peaceful solution for the whole crisis.

[Najm] Can you tell us something about the Arab peace initiative?

['Arafat] In general, we can say that we have to solve all the problems in the Middle East so that we can have real peace. But, I have to mention that I am completely worried to that statement declared by the American general who had been fired yesterday because this unmask the whole issues, which [changes thought] against the Iraqi people and the civilians in Baghdad, which is a very serious issue. [sentence as heard] I am addressing this to the all United Nations, to the Security Council if they accepting what had mentioned by this general. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Meets With Hasan, Departs

JN1909150790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

They discussed the Gulf crisis and its impact on the region, in addition to Arab efforts under way to find a peaceful settlement to the crisis. Mr. 'Arafat left Amman this afternoon following a two-day visit to Jordan.

Official Says Morocco Has Ideas on Gulf Crisis

JN2009074890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—A Jordanian official said yesterday that Jordan must keep all channels open, and, therefore, Jordan is talking to all parties concerned with the Gulf crisis.

He added: Jordan was criticized a great deal for talking to Iraq or the Palestinian leadership, as though they were parties to the conflict. [as published] If everyone wants to find a solution to the "current crisis," then one must continue to talk to all parties. A mediator cannot play his role if he stops talking to the concerned parties.

The official was referring to the role played by His Majesty King Husayn and his efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

The official said everyone is talking about a peace process to resolve the Gulf crisis, and there are many ideas and initiatives on the issue, such as Jordanian, Palestinian, and Libyan ideas. He said: "I believe that Morocco is now in a position to propose some additional ideas. If all of those ideas, which are not very much different from each other, are studied well and proposed to all concerned parties, then they will constitute a serious and effective effort."

Amal's Al-Musawi on Possible Hostage Release

NC1909170590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, has confirmed to REUTER that British hostages Parson Terry Waite, Journalist John McCarthy, and retired pilot Jack Mann will be freed soon. Al-Musawi, however, added that it is not possible to give a date for their release, and that negotiations are taking place between Britain and a group representing the captors of the hostages. He further said: The atmosphere is conducive to releasing European hostages now that Washington, London, and Paris are adopting a nonaggressive policy toward Muslims.

Comments on Foreign Forces

NC2009062290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, has declared that three British hostages—Terry Waite, John McCarthy, and Jack Mann—will be released soon. He declined to give a specific date for their release.

Al-Musawi said that if the Western states maintained a nonaggressive policy regarding Muslims, foreigners would be able to return to Lebanon.

Regarding the Gulf crisis, al-Musawi said that Lebanese Muslims will cooperate with the Gulf Muslims in attacks against the foreign forces there, especially the U.S. forces. He proposed that Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait in return for privileges for Iraq in Kuwait.

Arab League's Ibrahimi Meets With Al-Baz

NC1909144490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Assistant Arab League Secretary-General Lakhdar Ibrahimi held consultations in Cairo today with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's adviser, on developments in the Lebanese crisis, ways to implement the al-Ta'if agreement, and providing urgent financial assistance to Lebanon.

According to Egyptian sources, there is agreement on the need to compel General 'Awn to accept the al-Ta'if agreement, even if this leads to the use of military force.

The same sources add that Ibrahimi asserted to al-Baz that he had been entrusted by certain Lebanese figures with the task of considering with Egypt the possibility of supplying the Lebanese army with weapons and military equipment. Ibrahimi pointed out, however, that he is not officially commissioned by the Lebanese Government to make this request. Ibrahimi noted that the Egyptian response to this request will determine whether the Lebanese government will officially make this request.

The Egyptian sources spoke about high-level political coordination among Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon to end the current crisis. They add that Egypt is currently holding talks with General 'Awn and other Lebanese figures to persuade 'Awn to accept and implement the al-Ta'if agreement and end the fighting in Lebanon.

Junblatt Advocates Single Electoral Constituency

NC1909155390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] In an interview with AL-NAHAR today, Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt said the war has not ended. He stressed the need for ending the internal war, which resulted from the so-called war of liberation or abolition.

He added that confidence must be built between the various responsible military and political bodies; that is between Samir Ja'ja' and the nationalist and Islamic groups. This confidence must later be expanded in the direction of the south.

On rebuilding Lebanon, Junblatt said: Al-Hirawi and al-Huss satisfied themselves with the al-Ta'if agreement, and so did the Arabs, while events are occuring successively like a roaring sea or an uncontrolled bulldozer, which I call the American bulldozer. We satisfied ourselves with al-Ta'if's glories, while al-Ta'if's engineers—the Arabs—are preoccupied with something else.

Junblatt added: There is no need for al-Hirawi's message. I mean that there is no need for sending a begging message. Al-Huss has raised the alarm when this alarm should have been raised here first. Rectifying corruption should be done here, he said.

Junblatt continued: If the Arabs give us one, two, or three million dollars, all the money will evaporate due to corruption and mismanagement.

The PSP leader asserted that if those who sponsored the al-Ta'if agreement wanted a solution for the Lebanese problem, they would have presented a rudimentary solution by making all of Lebanon a single electoral constituency, in which different people mingle together. He added: The present Chamber of Deputies has been the same for 18 years. Trying to add new faces through favoritism will not satisfy the Lebanese people's aspirations. There must be new elections which mix the people together, he said. I may elect Samir Ja'ja' and he may elect me, he explained.

Responding to a question on an alternative for parties, Junblatt said: There is no alternative for parties. However, he added, these parties must shuffle their cards together so they can really become public nationalist parties. The elections I have talked about may help create alliances covering all of Lebanon, he said. Of course, he said, certain parties are experiencing changes. The old language of the parties has become meaningless and it has to be updated and modernized. Moreover, he added, we have to renew our political thinking.

Junblatt added: We are all bankrupt. The political class is looking back to the glories of the past in sorrow. We do not want to look back. We should instead look to the future because the past is dead. It is the future which has to be reconsidered, he stressed.

Commenting on the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and the inter-Palestinian conflict, Junblatt said: The Palestinians are in an awkward position at present. They have the war in Sidon. The Palestinians are in trouble at the Arab and international levels. Some PLO elements think that returning to the so-called armed struggle across the Lebanese borders may give them new prominence. I believe that this concept has become obsolete.

He stressed the need for the formation of a unified Arab plan to confront Israeli settlement and the economic challenges in the Arab world. Unfortunately, he said, the Palestinian problem's priority has been lessened on the international level.

Two Phalangists Released From Prison by Syria

NC1909173490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Dr. George Sa'adah, leader of the Phalangist Party and minister of telecommunications and posts, this evening received two Phalangist party members released from Syrian prison following contacts he held with senior Syrian officials during his recent visit to Damascus. The released are Samir Fu'ad al-Sayyigh, who had been in detention for three and a half years, and Joseph Sa'd Sa'd, who was detained seven months ago.

The Syrian authorities released the two detainees this morning. They were taken this evening to the temporary office of Minister Sa'adah at the al-Nahr telephone exchange building.

Minister Sa'adah welcomed the two, and congratulated them on their safe return to their families. He hoped that all detainees would be released.

Hizballah Responds to Amal Accusation

NC2009083690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Hizballah issued the following statement yesterday: The leadership of Nabih Birri's Amal Movement has grown accustomed to making arbitrary accusations and lies. It does not hesitate to hold the sons of the Hizballah nation responsible for every incident in the world. It appears that the Amal media always have a statement containing an accusation ready and wait only for an opportunity to announce it.

While emphatically denying the falsehoods, accusations, and fabrications about bombings or other such acts, we ask the Amal leadership to clarify the following to our people, particularly the citizens in the wounded south who are groaning under the hegemony and control of Amal's groups:

First, why did it not identify the group to which Rafiq Safa belongs when it announced his execution on the charge that he placed explosives on a rocket which exploded while being dismantled in the Kafr Dajjal village? Did this leadership not hasten at the time to accuse Hizballah of being responsible for the incident? In the statement it published in the newspapers on Wednesday, 19 September, we did not see any hint about the identity of the suspect, his political affiliation, his role in that operation, or who stands behind him. [passage omitted]

Second, while negotiations are going on with this leadership to allow the Red Cross to evacuate wounded civilian old men, women, and children who have been the victims of a supply and medical shortage, and a brutal bombardment of the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages; while it refuses to evacuate any injured person who is under 60; and despite the Red Cross' performance of this humanitarian task and its evacuation of numerous wounded whose names and injuries have been announced, we find that the Amal Movement's central media denies that the movement is besieging the Iqlim's villages or stopping the supplies of medicines, food, and milk to the citizens. [passage omitted]

Third, what has become of the cease-fire agreements and the agreements to halt media campaigns? Where is Amal's credibility in adhering to agreements and promises?

'Awn Officers, Soldiers Join Lahhud Command

NC1909174490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] According to information received by Voice of Lebanon, 10 officers and about 125 soldiers of former army commander General Michel 'Awn today along with their families joined the command of Army Commander Gen. Emil Lahhud. Among the officers were Lieutenant Colonel Butrus 'Assaf, Major Samir Farah, Maj. Jirjis al-Khuri, Maj. Joseph al-Qazzi, Captain Joseph Shahin, and 1st Lt. Yusuf Sharaf.

'Awn Units Attack Areas in East Beirut 20 Sep

NC2009062590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] A security setback occurred when General 'Awn's units directed rockets and automatic weapons fire at the Museum-al- Tibbiyah combat line beginning at 2100 last night. 'Awn's units also fired two 81-mm shells at al-Nab'ah area at 2330 and a 60-mm shell at Galerie Khabbaz area at 2340.

Israelis Reinforce Position in Border Zone

NC2009063790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] According to reports from the occupied border zone, the Zionist enemy is continuing to reinforce its position in al- Ahmadiyah by deploying tanks to act as an additional defense in the wake of resistance attacks in recent months.

In Marj 'Uyuun the usurping army dismantled six rockets aimed at the occupied land. The enemy forces arrested several citizens and took them to al-Khiyam detention camp.

Travelers from the occupied zone have also reported that the Zionist occupation forces have begun implementing a series of strict security measures around the so-called Middle East Radio and the Voice of the South radio stations.

Saudi Arabia Provides $100 Million in Aid

NC1909193290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Saudi Arabia informed Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss this evening that it has transferred $100 million to the account of the Lebanese government. It has been reported that this sum has beem deposited in the Bank of Lebanon.

Shaykh Sha'ban Critical of Gulf Leaders

NC2009092990 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 sep 90 p 3

[AL-SAFIR report: "Sha'ban: 'We Would Have Wished for Saddam To Have Pounced on Israel, Not Kuwait'"]

[Text] Tripoli, AL-SAFIR—The educational bureau of the Islamic Unification Movement held a ceremony at the al-Mal'ab public secondary school in Tripoli to hand out prizes to those who have excelled in memorizing the Holy Quran.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban [leader of the Islamic Unification Movement] delivered a speech in which he called on the Muslims in Palestine, Lebanon, and the Islamic countries to "awaken and to wake up our generations who are almost at a loss amid the educational curricula charted by UNESCO, and judiciously select the educators."

He said: Today we see an ignorance similar to nations' ignorance that preceded Islam and the Arabs' ignorance that preceded the appearance of the Islamic message—the Arabs who lived as conflicting tribes and who came together only at the chieftain's order. Imagine our society being ruled by gangs of tribal shaykhs. Imagine that the Islamic world's largest wealth is possessed by pagan shaykhs in four Islamic countries. Al Sabah, Al Maktum, Al Nuhayyan, and Al Sa'ud possess the nation's wealth while the nation lives in poverty. They spent nothing of this huge wealth on Palestine. They alerted the Islamic world only after Saddam pounced on Kuwait. We would rather have had him pounce on Israel. However, I am not sorry for Al Sabah and I wish the same fate for Al Maktum, Al Nuhayyan, and Al Sa'ud because they left Egypt to groan from hunger so that America could take pity on it and offer it a bribe for the Camp David treaty and for supporting the American invasion of the Arabian Peninsula.

Al-Asad Spokesman Views U.S. Cooperation

AU1909112090 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 19 Sep 90 p 8

[Heiko Flottau report: "We Want to Prevent War in the Gulf"]

[Text] Damascus, 18 September—"The Syrian troops in Saudi Arabia have the task of helping to defend Saudi Arabia. Syria is ready to support those Arab countries that want Syrian contingents to help them." This was stated by Jubran Kuriyah, spokesman of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, in an interview with SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in Damascus. Kuriyah added that the Gulf crisis must be resolved by the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and by the reinstallment of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government. He said that it is the goal of Syrian policy to prevent war in the Gulf and resolve the problems by peaceful means. Asked whether Saudi Arabia is paying the costs in connection with the presence of Syrian troops, Kuriyah said: "Syria is acting on national, Arab motives."

Al-Asad's spokesman said that Syria's policy is oriented toward the principles of non-interference and the peaceful solution of conflicts. He added that the invasion of a country by another country is incompatible with international standards. "Syria was opposed to the war that Iraq started against Iran, and now Syria is equally opposed to the attack that Iraq has launched against Kuwait," said Kuriyah.

Kuriyah said, however, that the acute crisis in the Gulf does not mean that the Palestinian problem and the demand for the right of self-determination of all Palestinians is now of secondary importance. He said that the situation in the Middle East remains dangerous as long as the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continues. He said that comprehensive peace in the Middle East can only be achieved when and if the causes of the tensions are abolished and Israel has pulled out of all the occupied territories. Asked whether he sees a connection between the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, the Syrian president's spokesman said that the point now is to resolve the crisis in the Gulf in a peaceful way and to restore Kuwait's sovereignty.

Asked whether the Arabs feel that the United States should have worked for the implementation of UN resolutions 242 and 338 (Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories) in as committed a way as it has been doing for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, Kuriyah said that there have always been complaints about the failure of the international community to implement these UN Security Council resolutions. "We would welcome efforts of the international community to put these resolutions into practice, and to exert influence on the aggressor. Such a position would be good for detente and peace in the Middle East," said Kuriyah. Asked about Syria's view on the suggestion made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to create a security structure in the Middle East that would have to include Israel, Kuriyah said: "That is Mr. Baker's opinion."

Asked whether the visit of the U.S. secretary of state has improved relations between the United States and Syria, President al-Asad's spokesman said: "Dialogue is better than confrontation." He added that this dialogue between the two countries has lasted for a long time, and Baker's visit to Damascus came about at the request of President George Bush. He said that President Bush contacted President al-Asad by phone in the course of the Gulf crisis. However, differences of opinion between the two countries continue to exist. This does not mean, however, that it is impossible to cooperate in the Gulf crisis where the two countries' positions are largely identical, Kuriyah said. Viewed by the Syrian side, there is dissent on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, on the Palestinians' right of self-determination, and on the convocation of an international Mideast peace conference.

Answering a question about international terrorism, Kuriyah said: "We are and were opposed to terrorist actions, and we will continue to be opposed to terrorism. Terrorism does not help solve the noble problem of the liberation of Palestine." Regarding the terrorist attack on the Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie in December 1988, al-Asad's spokesman said that Syria has not seen any conclusive evidence that a group of Palestinians in Damascus carried out this action.

Jubran Kuriyah said that Lebanon is an example of possible Syrian- U.S. cooperation. He said that like Syria, the United States backs the Lebanese peace treaty that was concluded in the Saudi town of Ta'if (one year ago). However, neither Syria nor the United States are mandatory powers in Lebanon. Lebanon's internal problems must be resolved by the Lebanese themselves, he said. If the legitimate Lebanese Government asks for Syrian help, such help will be granted; however, Syria will never be "a substitute for the Lebanese government," Jubran Kuriyah added.

Finally, he described Syria's basic attitude, stating that Syria acts "on its own will and its own conviction, and not on the opinion of others." Jubran Kuriyah added: "No one will dictate his opinion to Syria. I think the United States knows how to conduct a dialogue with Syria. The further development of this dialogue will show that a positive basis exists."

Nation Vows Response to Saudi Troop Requests

PM1909130690 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Sep 90 p 5

[Francoise Chipaux dispatch: "Syria Agrees To Send as Many Soldiers as Saudi Arabia Requests"]

[Excerpts] Damascus—The Soviet Union will contribute to the transportation of Syrian troops to the Gulf, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman said on Sunday 16 September. "The USSR has offered to help us, we have our own resources, and we may have recourse to other countries," he told us, adding that the Soviet Union had valued the Syrian attitude in the crisis.

Syria, which already has around 3,200 men in Saudi Arabia—essentially two brigades of the special forces taken from Lebanon—and 2,000 men in Abu Dhabi, is apparently planning to send the 9th Armored Division, in other words around 10,000 men and almost 300 tanks. "We agree to send as many soldiers as Saudi Arabia requests," Mr. Salman said, explaining that the Syrian contingent is operating under the command of Saudi General Khalid Bin-Sultan who has "the free choice to orient those forces in accordance with the missions he deems sufficient."

According to Mr. Salman, the dispatch of these forces, decided by the Cairo Arab summit, corresponds to the concern expressed by Syria to promote an Arab solution. "How can we call for an Arab solution if nobody contributes to it," he told us, adding: "Once the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government have been achieved, the Arabs will ask the foreigners to leave the Gulf." In this connection, it is significant that immediately after the visit to Damascus by the U.S. secretary of state, the Syrian newspapers chose to base their reports on Mr. Baker's statements that "U.S. troops will withdraw from Saudi Arabia as soon as the crisis is over."

However, how can an Arab solution be promoted in such a state of division? According to Mr. Salman, this solution should not deviate from the strict framework of Arab unanimity on nonrecognition of the invasion of Kuwait, and the Security Council resolutions. Criticizing the various initiatives which are being launched from various quarters, including Iraq, Mr. Salman said that "their imprecision is merely complicating the situation."

According to a reliable source, Syria does not think there will be war, and does not want war, and thinks that an embargo, which, according to observers, it is respecting—although it is impossible to completely rule out some blunders along the 600 km border with Iraq—combined with political measures, could lead Iraq to back down and make it easier to draw up a compromise. [passage omitted]

Asked what Syria would do in the case of an American attack, Mr. Salman merely replied: "Any action which was launched would only be launched as a result of a UN Security Council resolution. If the political action and the embargo do not succeed, new UN actions will be necessary, and Syria's position will not differ from Arab or international will." It remains to be seen what they will do then, and in what context action will be taken.

Meanwhile, to find out about the real Iranian position following the rapprochement with Iraq, and to find out about Tehran's respect for the embargo in particular, President al-Asad could visit Iran very soon. "The visit has been decided in principle," Mr. Salman told us, adding that "Syria is confident that Iran would not change its position with regard to Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait because of its reconciliation with Iraq. On the basis of reliable Iranian sources, we can say that Iran will respect the embargo," he said, specifying that Syria welcomed this rapprochement which confirmed that Syria's viewpoint during the Gulf war in which Damascus supported Tehran was well-founded. Some people in Damascus readily make the step from that to the idea of Syria and Iran, Iraq's two sworn enemies, joining forces to play a moderating role over an Iraq weakened and isolated with respect to the West.

However, this has not yet been achieved and Syria, without actually saying so, is at present waiting to reap the benefit of an attitude primarily dictated by its own interests. Although, with regard to its relations with the United States, the dialogue started a long time ago is to be pursued, probably in better conditions despite the dispute over terrorism which was discussed at length by Mr. Baker, Damascus is also turning toward Europe and especially toward Britain.

Indeed, out of solidarity with London, which severed its diplomatic relations with Damascus in November 1986 following an abortive attack on an Israeli El Al plane, the EEC adopted a series of measures against Syria, some of which are still in force and which Damascus would like lifted. The atmosphere with Britain now seems much more relaxed and, as Mr. Salman says, "we appreciate the positive attitudes of the British officials. We are prepared to have a dialogue with them; that would be in our two peoples' interests." [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Party Activists in Kabul

LD2009060890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0435 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Report on speech by President Najibullah at a meeting of the Kabul City party Councils in Kabul on 17 September]

[Text] Kabul, Sep 19, BAKHTAR—The success of the party depends upon the fact that how it should organise its "basic force" party cadres for the realisation of the decisions made in the party plenary session three months ago, said President Najibullah addressing the party activists of Kabul City Party Councils, held here on Sept 17.

In this connection, he recalled that about one hundred party cadres have either been released from services under the flag or have lost their posts due to new party structure. We will not allow even one of the party cadre to be without destiny or to be idle.

However, it should be pointed out that there existed in the past practice of the party a tendency from organisational swelling as a negative phenomenon, contrary to its new approach and thus a 40 percent reduction was applied in central council, removing of armed forces branches etc, but all those who are jobless will be assigned to new posts. At the same time under the condition of division of power they should not expect above-rank posts, but should honestly work in the interests of party in any post.

Pluralism as an irreversible approach constitutes the basis for, "the creation of today's and future states of Afghanistan. In this way our party has given up the power monopoly. Meanwhile, giving up of the monopoly of power never means the abandonment of participation in power. Today a representative of Watan Party heads the state. Watan Party fulfils a distinguished role in defending the existing sovereignty and has a determining share in government posts like other political forces. Thus, Watan Party as among the ruling parties takes part in the government. The renunciation of the party from the monopoly of power is not in the sense that the party will remain simply as observer.

Political sovereignty is not faced with any gap. This sovereignty has the confirmation of Loya Jerga [Grand National Assembly], Grand Assembly, and National Assembly, Parliament, of the Republic of Afghanistan. The activities of the political sovereignty is in full conformity with the RA constitution and the accepted international norms, he stressed.

We should remember that our society is on a transition phase, transition from war towards peace, national understandings and reconstruction.

The party, contrary to the past and following the national reconciliation policy, considers pluralism, democracy and national characteristics in the party life, as it's priority tasks at the present moment.

Meanwhile, the party is dutybound to preserve its face as an independent political and social organisation and not to allow itself even for a moment to become a state apparatus or to be merged in it. Great mistakes have been made in the past. Continuing resort to one-party system had led some party members to forget their party identity. Some of them prior the creation of the new cabinet spoke philosophically of the need to realise the policy of national reconciliation, political pluralism and the formation of a [word indistinct] government. When they found out that some of the ministerial posts were assigned to some other people began backbiting and some of them mixed up the division of power with the abandonment of power [sentence as received] They then started murmuring that the party no longer has any power.

Touching on new organisation structure of the party, President Najibullah called on all party members to fulfill all their obligations and to strictly abide by the instructions of their superior party councils.

President Najibullah called the attention of the party organisations in the 2nd half of the year to fulfil certain tasks. Included among them were intensification of efforts in combating against corruption and mismanagement in administrations, starting negotiations with local commanders of the opposition armed forces around Kabul in order to reach understanding for observiation of cease-fire and prevention of firing of blind rockets.

Briefing the participants about his recent tour to the Soviet Union, India and France, President Najibullah summoned up [word as received] that the outcomes of the tasks held with the top authorities of these countries are the ratification of the continuation of the policy of national reconciliation, the material and moral support from the RA and the Soviet Union's efforts for getting access to a political solution of the situation in Afghanistan. In all these meetings the delegations of those countries expressed their readiness to expedite the political solution of the situation of Afghanistan.

The Republic [word indistinct] supported RA's proposal on Afghanistan's membership in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation "SAARC". RA also proposed that it would be better if India mobilizes SAARC for convening a regional conference in order to solve the Afghan problem through political means.

Najibullah Meets UN Official on Reconciliation

LD2009063990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0516 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 19 BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan today in the afternoon had a meeting in his office at the presidential headquarters with Benon Sevan, special envoy of the UN secretary general, reported BAKHTAR.

[Words indistinct] aide to the president was also present, President Najibullah [words indistinct] to his meetings with Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general during his visit to Paris, expansion and organization of UN economic assistance to Afghanistan as well as UN assistance for political solution of the Afghan issue etc.

Later on B. Sevan informed President Najibullah on UN efforts for the solution of the Afghan issues through political means, ensurance of national reconciliation among Afghans: including results of the meetings of the representatives of that [word indistinct]

India

Nationals Advised Against Land Route to Jordan

BK1909163190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The first convoy of buses carrying about 2,000 stranded Indian nationals has arrived at the Jordanian border as part of the second phase of Operation Evacuation. But the second convoy ran into trouble as it was not properly organized with a large number of people joining at various points resulting in overcrowding. The Indian nationals in Kuwait are, therefore, advised that they should stop taking the land route to Amman until further notice.

It has been officially stated in New Delhi that about 3,000 Indian nationals in Kuwait have been held up at al-Ru'wayshid camp because of the overcrowding problem in the second convoy. Another 2,000 are held up on the Iraqi side of the border, and there are over 11,000 Indian nationals now waiting in the al-'Azraq camp near Amman.

New Delhi is doing everything possible to airlift the people in al-'Azraq camp as quickly possible so that the movement from al-Ru'wayshid camp and from the Iraqi side of the border can be speeded up. Till this congestion is clear, the Indian nationals in Kuwait have been advised not to set out on land routes from Kuwait or Baghdad to Amman.

Meanwhile, efforts are being made to operate flights by Indian Air Force aircraft Il-76 from Basra to Dubayy. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that New Delhi has received necessary clearance for operating the flights from al-Basrah.

Delhi TV Reports Refugees' Arrival From Sindh

BK1909125690 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Thousands of refugees from Sindh in Pakistan are seeking sanctuary in the border districts of Rajasthan after being fed up of incessant persecution and inhumane treatment meted out to them. Our correspondent Sudhanshu Ranjan reports that the recent spurt of violence in the Sindh Province of Pakistan has led to a large number of Sindhis crossing over to India. Migrants speak of harrowing tales of atrocities perpetrated against them. They said the Quami Muhajir Movement has been collaborating with the army in its operation against Jiye Sindh movement [for a separate homeland for Sindhis] and they are being sandwiched. They had been compelled to dispose of their property at throw-away prices. They say that they face violence, rape, loot, arson, and even murder with the authorities remaining mere spectators. These Sindhis have come to India through official channels, but they do not want to go back. However, they are not sure whether they will be allowed to stay. They say that the situation in Sindh has deteriorated to such an extent that during the last one year there have been more than 1,200 cases of kidnapping and over 17,000 cases of dacoity. Educational institutions have remained closed for the last one year.

Spokesman Defends Stance on UN Sanctions

BK1909160890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1425 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 19 (AFP)—India Wednesday hit back at U.S. congressional criticism of its stand on Iraq, saying New Delhi had given "unequivocal and unwavering" support to all five U.N. resolutions on the invasion of Kuwait. "Our stand on this question is quite clear," a Foreign Office spokesman said here. "We have abided strictly and punctiliously by the sanctions which have been imposed." But the spokesman said India had also expressed the conviction that a peaceful settlement was the only way out of the crisis.

"We believe the rest of the world would also like to avoid violence," he added. New Delhi has called for a regional solution to the Gulf crisis rather than one by outside powers. The spokesman was replying to comments reportedly made to Indian Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey in Washington this week by Congressmen Stephen Solarz and Jim Leach implying that the U.S. thought India's response to the Gulf crisis had been inadequate.

An Indian news report quoted the congressmen—both key figures on the congressional South Asian affairs committee—as saying India's response could affect the U.S. view of India's problems with Kashmir and Pakistan, a U.S. ally. "Our stand on this (the Gulf crisis) is quite clear and categorical," the spokesman said. "We have given unequivocal and unswerving support to all five United Nations resolutions (on Iraq) ... We have expressed firm views about the annexation of Kuwait. "We do not see how there is any room for ambivalence or ambiguity in interpreting India's view," he added.

India, formerly a close ally of Kuwait, condemned the August 2 Iraqi invasion, but unlike its Moslem neighbours, Pakistan and Bangladesh, sent no troops to take part in the multinational U.S.-led forces in Saudi Arabia. Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral was the first foreign minister to visit occupied Kuwait and held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn after the invasion.

Singh Briefs Commanders on Ties With Neighbors

BK1909162490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated India's commitment to develop friendly relations with all its neighbors, including Pakistan, and to resolving outstanding issues through dialogue. Mr. V.P. Singh, however, regretted that there has been change in Pakistan's outlook toward India as Islamabad continues to aid and abet terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir. Addressing the combined conference of the commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force in New Delhi today, he expressed satisfaction over the improvement in Sino-Indian relations. The prime minister said the decision to reopen the second broad-gauge railway link between India and Bangladesh will help to consolidate good will between the two countries. Similarly, the signing of India-Nepal agreement in June this year have strengthened India-Nepal relations.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Raja Ramanna, called for closer interaction between various agencies concerned with national security. Earlier, the three service chiefs made presentations to the prime minister on security perception and defense preparedness.

Iran

Foreign Minister Reportedly To Visit Baghdad

AU1809175890 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Iraqi-Iranian talks about the possibilities of establishing diplomatic relations between the two neighboring countries which were at war for full eight years have concluded in Baghdad.

It has been learned unofficially that an agreement has been reached about preparing the visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati to Baghdad. Due to security reasons, it has not been disclosed when Velayati will visit Iraq.

Agreement Made With Iraq on Oil Export to India

TA1909150890 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] It has been reported that according to a secret agreement between Iraq and the Islamic Republic regime, Iraq is to export oil to India via Iran and to receive foodstuff in return. Petroleum experts believe that the oil exported to India will not necessarily be Iraqi oil. The Islamic Republic itself might export its oil and use Iraqi oil for internal consumption.

Omani Official Gives Farewell Statement on Talks

LD1909190590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Yusuf Bin-al-Alawai Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, was seen off this afternoon by Foreign Minister Velayati after visiting Tehran. He told our correspondent before leaving Tehran about meeting President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and about his two rounds of talks with Foreign Minister Velayati:

[Begin Bin-'Abdallah recording in English with passage by passage translation into Persian] First of all, I would like to inform you that my audience yesterday with his excellency the president, President Rafsanjani, was very useful, very fruitful. Mutual ties and establishment of security in the region were among the most important issues discussed in the meetings, and in those discussions we assessed ways of ending the present Gulf crisis. [end recording]

Yusuf Bin-al-Alawai Bin-'Abdallah referred to the principal role the Islamic Republic of Iran plays in the region, and about the present crisis said: We want the peaceful withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and hope the Iraqi leadership responds positively to the will of the region's nations.

Velayati told our correspondent about the visit by the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs to Iran and its outcome:

[Begin Velayati recording] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-al-Alawai Bin-'Abdallah delivered a message from His Excellency Sultan Qabus to His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani when he was received by the esteemed president.

We held two rounds of talks, and, as you mentioned, regional issues were discussed at a time when our region is in a particularly sensitive situation.

Kuwait has been attacked by the Iraqi forces, and that has created a pretext for the presence of alien forces in the region, and we disagree with both of them. The issue that the Islamic Republic of Iran stresses, and on which we also have mutual understanding with our Omani friends, is that the countries of the region should safeguard the region's security, and that is what we stressed and discussed in length.

You have witnessed that three rounds of talks were held between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Oman within the past few weeks. Once I paid a visit to Oman and twice His Excellency Alawi has come to Tehran. The most important focus of the talks with the Omani officials were means of resolving the complex situation in the region. Exchanges of views with the countries of the region will continue, foreign ministers of the UAE and Kuwait also came to Iran, and I made visits to other countries of the region. God willing, our visit to New York to participate in the UN general assembly in the near future is another opportunity to continue our talks with the foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member countries. We think that strengthening of Iranian relations with each one of the member countries of the cooperation council will provide better understanding toward a final solution to the problem facing the region and, God willing, toward a final solution of that vital and sensitive problem. [end recording]

Soviet Minister Belonogov Discusses Gulf Crisis

NC1909193790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov arrived in Tehran yesterday on a working visit which has special significance. He is carrying a very important message from the Soviet foreign minister to his counterpart, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. [passage omitted]

Mr. Belonogov believes that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait was a serious strategic error. He said: Under the present circumstances, we favor a peaceful solution and we will seek to break the deadlock in the crisis. He added that the UN Security Council resolutions on economic sanctions are regarded as a peaceful solution for the crisis. Naturally, he said, the current economic blockade can be expanded.

Belonogov held an important meeting with Dr. Velayati and handed him a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. During that meeting, and out of the Soviet leadership's desire to hold talks with officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Persian Gulf crisis, the Soviet deputy prime minister said: Under the present circumstances, the Islamic Republic's role has a special significance. He said: We do not feel comfortable at the assembly of military troops in the Persian Gulf. We seek to avoid the serious repercussions which may result from this crisis, he said.

Touching on the Persian Gulf crisis, Dr. Velayati said the attack on Kuwait and the presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf have created a serious situation. The resulting developments arouse concern, he said. What the Islamic Republic does not accept is the arrival of foreign troops in the Persian Gulf and their planning for a security presence in the region, he stressed.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Velayati asserted that Iran will oppose any plan which threatens Iran's national security. Mr. Belonogov met also with Iranian Economy and Finance Minister Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh and discussed economic issues, particularly the export of Iranian gas to Europe via the Soviet Union.

Possible Dispatch of Troops to Gulf Denied

LD1909225890 Tehran IRNA in English 2039 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Beirut, Sept. 19, IRNA—An informed source at the Iranian Embassy here today refuted as "false and pure fabrication" some press reports alleging that the Islamic Republic might despatch troops to Saudi Arabia.

The source told IRNA that the Islamic Republic has explicitly opposed Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and condemned the presence of American forces in the region under whatever pretext. He also reiterated Iran's stand that the problems of the region should be solved by regional countries, saying Islamic Iran has always insisted on the role of these countries free from foreign intervention.

President Speaks at Annual IRGC Conference

Discusses Crisis, POW's

LD1909122590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The third massive annual conference of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] from all over the country was inaugurated this morning with a message from His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the islamic revolution, and a speech by President Hasehmi-Rafsanjani.

According to a Central News Unit report, at this ceremony which was also attended by Torkan, minister of defense and support of the armed forces, and Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Movahhedi-Kermani, the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Ideological-Political Bureau director, the esteemed leader's message was first read by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Movaheddi-Eraqi, the representative of vali-ye faqih [vice regent of the jurisconsult—Khamene'i] in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. Then Mohsen Reza'i, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps chief commander, expressed the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps pesonnel's full preparedness for greater service in the Islamic Republic system.

Then Hashemi-Rafsanjani opened his speech by expressing his condolences for the passing of the seal of the prophet, Muhammad Mustafa—God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his scion—and the martyrdom of Imam Hasan Mujtaba and Imam Rida—peace be upon them. In a brief analysis of the present situation and the condition of the armed forces, especially the Guards Corps and the Basij [mobilization forces], he described them as one of the important and effective factors in the country's progress to the present juncture. He praised their actions in advancing the system and the revolution and said they are a source of pride.

Describing the general defense policy of the country in the course of the holy defense, the president compared the record of actions of our forces and the Iraqi forces. He said they attacked us by relying on technology and foreign capailities and by relying on money and weapons and with the wishes and coordination of others. We defended ourselves relying on our own desires, thoughts, and capabilities.

He continued his speech, enumerating the enemy atrocities throughout the war and their nonobservance of war regulations and international norms. The president elaborated a number of enemy crimes against the Islamic revolution and added that we never allowed our way to be turned into a unbridled move. Because we are attached to our principles and aspirations—except for a few cases when as a preventative measures we were forced to resort to retaliatory action—in other cases we did not transgress war regulations. This is today the source of our strength and the weakness of our enemies.

In another part of his speech, he referred to arrogant propaganda siding with the Iraqi regime in the course of the imposed war and said that many of the things which in those days we tried to bring to the attention of world public opinion through our suppressed cries, due to the change in circumstances, are today being heard from the tongues of the leaders of powers and supporters of the Iraqi regime. It is nothing but God's favor that the truth should be manifest and the hypocrites shamed.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to the present military, political, and economic conditions in Iraq and analyzed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He described it as the result of the explosive situation in that country after the acceptance of the peace agreement. He said that because of its reliance on foreign capabilities and its extreme dependence and because it possesses a very expensive armed forces, an empty treasury, and an 80-billion dollar debt, Iraq was placed in a situation where as the result of these conditions plus international pressure for the repayment of loans, it was forced to again turn to extortionism from the Arab countries of the region. Finally, the situation reached a point which all of you are aware of. In confronting that expensive policy, our forces, especially the forces of the Guards Corps, carried out their operation at the least possible expense and through general mobilizations.

He added that today the world has been mobilized in order to confront Iraq's aggression and has utilized all its capabilties. All you alone and through reliance on God defended yourselves for eight years against those armed forces while they enjoyed the support of all the powers, and you became victorious through God's favor.

Continuing his speech, he honored the memory of the martyrs and praised the freed men [released POW's]. The president said that the freed men, after all their steadfastness and resistance and after enduring all that hardship, are these days returning to the bosom of the nation. They are a source of pride to the people and the glory of the revolution. Islam is proud to have such children.

In conclusion, he stressed the need to maintain the armed forces' preparedness. The president said that in the face of any opportunity which might arise in the region, we should be completely vigilant and prepared and we should maintain our military preparedness and capability.

Referring to the services of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps since the beginning of the victory of the revolution, Hashemi- Rafsanjani called on the Guards Corps personnel to strengthen their ties with the people more than ever before.

Khamene'i Message to Commanders

LD1909131990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The third grand annual meeting of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] nationwide commanders and officials convened this morning with a message by his eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution. The text of Ayatollah Khamene'i's message which was read to the meeting by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohammadi-Eraqi, representative of the vali-ye faqih [vice regent of the jurisconsult] in the IRGC, is as follows:

In the name of God, the compasionate, the merciful. Just as in previous years the meeting of IRGC commanders and officials renews for the nation memories of all self-sacrifices, struggles, and martyrdoms. It also shows us a sign of divine favor and mercy and eternal pride, the banner of victory which has been raised under the shadow of a united voice. The meeting reviews the leadership of the exalted imam—may his dust be sanctified. It gives thanks to the blood of martyrs, the cooperation of military organizations, the unique struggles of the Basij [mobilization force], the IRGC and the armed forces as well as the relentless efforts of the country's sympathetic officials.

It is an object of pride for you, dear young ones and pious children of Islam, that you were even present with all your being in the bloody and determining battle of Islam against blasphemy, and demonstrated unique steadfastness and patience. Now you are witness to the materialization of divine promise, that is, the victory of Islam over all blasphemy.

Our nation and above all, the self-sacrificing combatants have the great priviledge, just like the Muslims of the early days of Islam, of having brought to a fully victorious end the jihad on the path of God against the leaders of blasphemy, hypocracy and the tyranical and aggressor renegades of the globe. In their great battle they relied on nothing and no one except the power of faith and sincerity which springs from solid faith in monotheism and belief in divine promises. From now on too in the long path toward the ultlimate objectives of the Islamic revolution you will always be victorious.

You fulfilled your commitments to God with all the great victories which the nation of Iran achieved and this has thrown light on the future path facing all Muslims.

You, the brave commanders of Islam, shoulder a heavier duty. The IRGC should, within the framework of the duties assigned to it, continue its movement seriously and in a disciplined, decisive, and pioneering manner. You should preserve and strengthen attention to God, piety, faith, and spirituality which have been the principal foundation of this revolutionary body. You should cooperate with the armed forces with utmost goodwill and helpfulness and should pursue your great responsibility by forming and training the 20- million strong Basij force by reliance on God and whith an energetic and enterprising spirit.

Each one of the three arms of the Guards Corps has special missions to carry out and the ground forces are the principal axis and object of hope and divine asset for the revolution and the country. You should organize and strengthen the units to the levels of quality set down for them. All the dear elements of the IRGC in whichever sections they may be in this revolutionary body and wherever they are in the country should struggle to strengthen this sacred institution which is a great asset for our nation and country and consolidate daily the foundation of the holy defense.

I ask God, the almighty to grant you dear ones continued success. God's peace and blessings be upon you.
[Signed] Seyyed Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 9 September 1990

Editorial Terms U.S. Gulf Policy 'Extortion'

NC0919120490 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Sep 90 pp 1, 12

[Mohammad Sarafraz editorial: "American Extortion"]

[Excerpts] America has begun its extortion of other countries so that it can maintain its military and police presence in the Persian Gulf. It has asked for financial assistance from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, and West Germany to meet the expenses of the military exercises known as "Desert Shield."

Before the occupation of Kuwait, Iraq had also asked for financial assistance from regional countries in order to meet the expenses for its military operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is very clear that America has not sent its forces to the Persian Gulf littoral states in order to "overcome an aggression" but to "gain interests." An obvious proof of this is America's use of its veto power when it comes to preventing Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories or preventing the implementation of the UN resolutions on this.

Some of America's major objectives are to gain access to the region's oil wells, to further plunder the Arabs' wealth, and to exercise its direct diktat.

And it is also possible that the shaykhs of those littoral countries that resist American extortions will be overthrown on the pretext of establishing security!

So while an American military attack against Iraq is doubtful, Bush has proposed to meet with Gorbachev on Sunday.

The Soviet Union, by adopting a double-sided policy, has warned against the extensive presence of military forces in the region and has opted for an Arabic and peaceful solution. At the same time Mr. Gorbachev has said that the deployment of American forces in Saudi Arabia is in concordance with the UN Charter. The Soviet Union says that a military attempt is dangerous. However, military presence is far more dangerous for the people of the region. [passage omitted]

Repentance of past behavior of countries—on whatever grounds it is made—only clarifies the reasons for the current crisis.

All of the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf that extended unlimited assistance to Iraq during the war are repenting and expressing regrets!

Former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson has implied that France extended military assistance to Iraq at U.S. request in 1359 [1980]. He said that the permanent members of the Security Council had agreed to support Iraq vis-a-vis Iran in an unannounced decision. Now the world's problem is that the powerful countries cannot reach an agreement on confronting the Persian Gulf crisis. The more America tries to gain the leadership of a political or military process to solve the region's problem, the less results it obtains.

We are facing a disintegrating world system which is proving ineffective in ensuring the security of its elements; and neither "collective security" nor "two poles" or "a balance of power" are able to meet current needs.

Editorial Views Need for Gulf Stability

NC1409150790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Sep 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Escalation of Tension in Persian Gulf Will Not Serve Anybody's Interest"]

[Text] Turkish President Turgut Ozal has said, in an interview with a Turkish daily, the SABAH (as quoted by a Persian paper, Jomhuri-ye Eslami on Thursday) that after the Persian Gulf crisis ends the geography of the region and its political balance will change.

Meanwhile in a related development the Turkish Parliament last week increased the country's military budget and empowered the Ankara government to send its forces abroad for the third time in the republic's history.

It is clear that stability and peace in the Persian Gulf is not only in the interest of the region's countries but also other countries who can benefit through creation of logical and healthy relations under the auspices of such a peaceful atmosphere.

And the most important factor for creation of stability and peace in the region is preservation of the region's geography and non- alteration of the frontiers of the regional countries. Creation of fresh crisis spots in the region is the biggest obstacle and threat to peace.

Hearsays have it also that the U.S. is about granting a favor to Turkey by forgiving its debts but it should be noted that in return for this favor the U.S. wants to use Turkish bases and, if necessary, Turkish ground forces in achieving its own objectives.

What Turkey should note is that its long-term interests after the end of the regional crisis lie in preservation of stability and peace and destroying tensions in a peaceful manner, not in creating new tensions.

Despite the efforts and desire of Turkey Europe did not accept this country within a united Europe. But Turkey can play a prominent role as a communications bridge between a unified Europe and the countries of the Persian Gulf but again this would be possibly only under an atmosphere of peace and a tension-free region.

As said before, any changes in the region's geography as well as the continued presence of foreign forces in the region is to the detriment of the regional countries in the long run. It is even to the detriment of the European countries. Despite Europe's support for presence of U.S. forces in the region at present, continued presence of these forces will only put more pressure on Europe. The U.S. by controlling oil production and guiding oil cargoes to its desired areas can out-maneuver and control European and other consumer countries.

In general in the long-run continued tensions and creation of fresh centers of crisis in the region and exciting the feelings of the Muslims of the region is not in the interests of any country in the world. Therefore all the world's countries should try to end the current crisis in the region in a peaceful manner and help to eliminate the factors causing new tensions.

Commentary Warns People of Gulf 'Catastrophe'

TA1709110290 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Officials of the mullahs' self-centered regime, while hypocritically stating that the Persian Gulf crisis should be settled through the cooperation of the region's countries, are naively muddying the water themselves, more than anyone else, in the hope of catching large fish.

If this bragging and big talk by Khamene'i and the other ruling partners, launched following the jihad decree by Imam Saddam, is only limited to slogans, it will make Iran more isolated in the world than it is now. If, God forbid, this results in a war and skirmish and Iraq drags us behind it, a dark future will await the Iranian people. For 12 years our people have experienced the bitter taste of damaging slogans—slogans which began with the 444-day hostage-taking of the American diplomats and the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. [passage omitted]

The Iranian nation, which went through eight years of agony, torment, and the tragedy of hostile confrontation and war against only one foreign country at that, is well aware that, if due to Saddam Husayn's enticement, deceit, and conspiracy this adventurism of the ruling mullahs is translated into practice, the dimensions of the catastrophe will be so great that nothing but a graveyard will remain from a major part of our homeland.

Indeed, is our era the era of 1,400 or 1,000 years ago that the inefficient mullahs, in imitation of Saddam, are talking about jihad? Now that Saddam Husayn has said some nonsense about jihad and considers himself the Salah-al-Din of the era, what has it got to do with our people to be thrust into the well of catastrophe with Saddam's worn-out rope as a result of the mullahs' ignorance and adventurism? [passage omitted]

Iranian people: Be aware and vigilant. The mullahs, by once again warming up the furnace of war, imitating Saddam Husayn, and beating the empty drum of jihad in the cause of Allah, want once again to impose death, destruction, and ruin on us. [passage omitted]

Editorial Calls for Aid in Refugees' Upkeep

NC1409163790 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 4 Sep 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran's Refugees"]

[Text] The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Thorvald Stoltenberg, completed an official three day visit to Iran and left here on Sunday. During his stay in Iran, he met and held talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Interior Minister Abdollah Nuri.

Conferring with Dr. Velayati, Mr. Stoltenberg thanked the Iranian government for providing shelter to more than three million refugees, of whom two-thirds are Afghans. At the present time, as a consequence of its 1,400 km border with Iraq and also because of an improvement of relations with Baghdad, Iran is prepared to let foreigners trapped in Kuwait and Iraq transit Iranian territory to get home. Recent events between Kuwait and Iraq may well cause Iran a new refugee crisis.

Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and during eight years of the Iran-Iraq War and all that entailed of economic problems, and international sanctions Iran provided food, shelter, jobs, medical, educational and social services to more than three million refugees of Afghan, Kurdish and Arab origin. [sentence as published]

To date Iranian efforts have been praised and appreciated on various occasions by senior U.N. officials. In mid-March, 1990 a group of foreign diplomats accredited to Tehran, along with representatives from various international and humanitarian organizations such as United Nations Development Program (UNDP), World Food Program (WFP), the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance programs relating to Afghanistan and UNHCR, inspected refugee camps in the east of Iran and all visitors lauded Iran's efforts on behalf of the refugees.

During the past decade, the Islamic Republic of Iran has ably hosted millions of refugees. The refugees themselves have felt at home mainly because of the Iranian belief in Islamic and humanitarian principles as well as the host and guest sharing common religious values.

In order to further increase various services for the refugees in Iran, additional financial and material support must be provided to Iran. The large and growing number of refugees currently in the country, uncertainty about the end of the civil war in Afghanistan, and finally the voluntary repatriation of all refugees necessitates vaster and deeper cooperation between Tehran on the one hand and international organizations concerned with refugees, in particular UNHCR, on the other hand.

Currently Iran is implementing its crucial first five-year social, economic and cultural development plan. While unemployment figures are falling, new jobs still must be created. The presence of refugees certainly affects employment statistics in Iran especially with regard to construction work. In this respect a percentage of economic assistance to Iran must be invested in productive industries and small farming units for refugees. In this way refugees who want to stay in Iran will have permanent jobs according to their abilities and interests.

Green Berets to Launch Maneuvers at Karaj Dam

LD1809091890 Tehran IRNA in English 0829 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—Commandos of the Green Berets division of the ground forces will launch a large-scale maneuver at the site of the Karaj Dam, 50 kms north of Tehran, next Sunday. The event coincides with the first day of a week-long program to mark the sacred defense of the Iranian people during the eight-year period of the Iraqi imposed war. The Green Beret commandos will test their military strength in a series of operations in the maneuvers. The people have also been invited to watch the operations.

Air Force Stages Tehran Training Flight

LD1909214990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The brave pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force performed a training flight in Tehran skies Wednesday morning.

IRNA reported the training flight was performed to prepare for the armed forces' massive march, which is to be staged in Tehran at the beginning of Holy Defense Week on 22 September.

Trade Minister Departs on African Tour

LD1709075190 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA—Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji set out on a tour of four African nations Sunday [16 Sep] night carrying written messages from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for the heads of these states.

Vahaji is to visit Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Uganda and Kenya. He is accompanied by representatives of the Ministries of Commerce, Foreign Affairs and Heavy Industries as well as those from the 'Saderat' (Export) Bank and the private sector.

In an interview before departure, he said that the tour aims at expanding Iran's economic and commercial ties with these countries.

He added that the four experts from the Non-Oil Exporters' Union will study export of Iranian goods to these countries and possibilities of opening Iranian trade centers and branches of Saderat Bank in these countries.

He is to visit Harare on the first leg of his 12-day tour.

Nurbakhsh Leaves for IMF, World Bank Meeting

LD2009100990 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh left here for Washington Thursday morning at the head of a delegation to attend the annual meet of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The conference will study various monetary and economic issues of the world as well as the impacts of the current Persian Gulf crisis on the world economy. Two parliamentarians and a number of senior officials from the Finance Ministry are accompanying the minister. The governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli is already in Washington for the same purpose.

Economic Council Lifts Ban on Non-Oil Exports

LD1809121590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] On the basis of a decision made by the Economic Council, the ban on importing spare parts for light and heavy vehicles is lifted and these items can be imported if the payment is made in foreign currency earned from non-oil exports. The deputy commerce minister in an interview announcing this news added that this important and essential decision of the Economic Council is a very useful step toward promoting non-oil exports. It will encourage the exporters to use their foreign currency earnings from non-oil exports to import their primary requirements, which will expand their work and further exports.

He added that this decision will not violate government policy on importing car tires and spare parts. Tires and spare parts can be imported in either way [by the state or private sector] by observing previous regulations.

Heavy Industries Ministry Lifts Imports Ban

LD1809123990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The Heavy Industries Ministry announced that all commercial companies in the state or private sector and all the manufacturing units of the Heavy Industries Ministry can utilize their foreign currency earnings to import such items as iron sheets with a thickness of up to three milimeters, various steel alloys, casting furnace and molds, ferrous alloys and machinery spare parts required by the country's heavy industries. These imported items are not covered by the price fixing regulations and rationed distribution. [as heard] On the basis of the Heavy Industries Ministry announcement all the manufacturing units affiliated with this ministry can take steps to import their requirements independently or allocate their import quotas to other state or private companies by signing separate agreements with each company.

Agriculture Minister Cited on Grain Prices

NC1909085090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] The purchasing price of wheat and barley for the coming agricultural year has increased, said the minister of agriculture on Tuesday afternoon in an exclusive interview with our correspondent. The minister added: As decided by the Economic Council, the price at which each kg of wheat will be purchased in the coming agricultural year has been set at 110 rials. Also, the barley harvests of the farmers will be purchased at 95 rials per kg next year. Mr. Kalantari added: With the view of the 10 percent and five percent increases in the prices of wheat and barley respectively, the purchases of surplus wheat by the government centers are expected to reach 3 million tonnes next year.

Irish Agriculture Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD1809124490 Tehran IRNA in English 1057 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—Ireland's agriculture minister Michael O'Kennedy arrived here Monday midnight at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Issa Kalantari. O'Kennedy and Kalantari started their first round of negotiations Tuesday morning.

The Iranian minister said that the Islamic Republic is ready to employ Irish experiences in the field of agriculture. He added that Tehran hopes to build constructive cooperation with Dublin in fields of education, research, animal husbandry, pasturing and forestry, technology and agricultural industry.

Noting that the current bilateral commercial relations is in favor of the Irish side, Kalantari said that in an effort to create a balance, Iran is ready to export agricultural products to that European country. The Irish minister expressed hope that his visit to Tehran will leave positive impacts on expansion of bilateral relations and that it will create suitable grounds for further mutual cooperation. O'Kennedy also welcomed export of Iran's agricultural and non-oil products to Ireland.

Armed Forces To Parade for Holy Defense Week

LD2009115790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] On the occasion of the Holy Defense Week, a week of festivities and victory, a communique was issued by the deputy in charge of Culture and War Publicity Affairs of the armed forces General Command Headquarters. The Central News Unit reports that the statement announces: On the first day of Holy Defense Week—Saturday 22 September—the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will display their military strength in a spendid parade in Azadi Square, in Tehran, and also in all provincial centers. The communique also invites all strata of the resistant and self- sacrificing people to be present on the unity parade sites to display their solidarity with the armed forces and to add to the splendor of these ceremonies.

Commentary Urges Addict Rehabilitation Centers

NC1809115290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0452 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research group]

[Excerpts] The director general of the drug enforcement headquarters described the results of the Zafar-3 operations and the way these operations were carried out. On the basis of his remarks, during the seven days of the Zafar-3 operations, more than two tonnes of drugs were discovered and more than 8,000 people were arrested. [passage omitted]

The latest figures reveal there are 700,000 addicts in our country. So far 270,000 of these addicts have been identified and a special file has been prepared on them. Meanwhile, it has been reported that since the outset of the new law on drugs, some 16,500 addicts have conquered their habit. It has also been reported that since 1367 [1988] when the fight against drugs started, fewer youths are turning to drugs. On this basis, the drug enforcement headquarters has tried to force addicts to kick their habit by tightening its hold on addicts and thus minimize inclinations for addiction.

Several centers for addicts are operating in the country. Latest figures put their capacity at about 25,000. However, there are only a few rehabilitation centers in relation to the 700,000 addicts. In view of the fact that the Prisons Organization has been assigned the task of constructing rehabilitation centers, it would be better for this organization to pay more attention to the construction and reconstruction of such centers. This is important at a time when officials of the [Islamic Revolution] Committee have reported that some of the addicts had to be released without any specific plans and programs because of the lack of possibilities and rehabilitation centers and because of the limitations of public prosecutors. Of course the drug enforcement headquarters has told the addicts who were released to report to the committee centers every 15 days so that they can be controlled.

However, more rehabilitation centers and 24-hour surveillance of addicts are needed. It is certain that in the drug enforcement plan the addicts should not be forgotten and opportunities for their rehabilitation should not be lost. The lack of rehabilitation centers and the limitations faced by the public prosecutors can be solved with the help of the judiciary branch and other relative organs so that the antidrug campaign aimed at healing addicts can be implemented

Further Smugglers Arrested; Narcotics Seized

LD1809090490 Tehran IRNA in English 0757 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—Some 145 kgs of narcotics, including 113 kgs of heroin, was seized and 49 traffickers were arrested in the southeastern border province of Sistan and Baluchestan, Monday. The public relations office of the Islamic Revolution's Committee Tuesday announced that the traffickers had smuggled the drugs into the country through the eastern borders.

Some six weapons, 750 cartridges, five motorbikes, and a van were also seized from the smugglers. Moreover, the announcement added, some 750 addicts have also been arrested since 'Zafar-3' anti-drug maneuvers where launched in this province on Saturday.

*New Police Department Appointments Announced

90AS0443P London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The new chief of the National Sheriff's Office, Second Brigadier Seyyed Amanollah Mortezavi made new appointments last week in the National Sheriff's Office. In these appointments:

Brigadier General Qena'ati was appointed acting chief of the National Sheriff's Office, Second Brigadier General Jamshid Moradian was appointed consultant to the chief of the National Sheriff's Office, Second Brigadier General Hormoz Ahmadi was appointed administrative deputy, Second Brigadier General Seyyed Abol-Qasem Sadat-Khansari was appointed logistics and financial deputy, and Second Brigadier General Reza 'Aliyari was appointed national military deputy sheriff.

Second Brigadier General Dr. Aqayi was appointed commander-in-chief of the Police University, Second Brigadier General Ja'far Ja'fari was appointed chief of the Inspection Office, Second Brigadier General Fathollah Heydari was appointed acting chief of the Tehran Traffic Control Office, and Colonel Ebrahim Farrokhi Zadeh-Angji was appointed chief of the National Sheriff's Communications Office. Likewise, Colonel Nasrollah Ramazani was appointed chief of the Visa Office and assumed his duties.

*Further Statistics on Housing, Cost of Living

90AS0443L London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] Based on statistics published by the Iran Statistics Center, while in the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] the average monthly income of an urban family was 111,664 rials, the average monthly expenses of this type of family in that year was 150,057 rials. According to the statistics published by the Iran Statistics Center, in 1367 every rural family had expenses of 88,202 rials compared to an average monthly income of 75,719 rials. An analysis of the above statistics shows that in 1367 every urban family in the Islamic Republic earned roughly 111,000 rials per month while spending about 150,000. In other words, every Iranian family living in the city was forced to obtain an extra 40,000 rials, or about 40 percent of its income in financial resources obtained through various means to carry on with life. The same malfunctioning situation also applied to the rural families, and based on official statistics from the Iran Statistics Center, to carry on with their lives these families also were forced, through any means possible, to obtain the difference between an average income of 75,719 rials and average expenses of 88,203 rials (about 12,500 rials).

In its report, the Iran Statistics Center relied on the census for 1367. It announced that during this year the annual income of an urban family was 1,339,970 rials, and the annual expenses of this type of family were 1,800,327 rials. Referring to rural statistics from the census, the Iran Statistics Center announced that in 1367 a rural family spent 1,058,423 rials against an income of 908,627 rials.

The report from the Iran Statistics Center says that the largest portion of the food and smoking materials expenses for a model urban family, at 35.3 percent, went for meat, and the greatest share of non-food expenses, at about 49 percent, went for housing. Concerning rural families, the greatest part of the costs for food and smoking materials, at 29.8 percent, went for flour, noodles, grain, bread, and bread products, and the greatest part of the expenses for non-food items, at 33.3 percent, went for housing.

An analysis of the statistics on income sources for urban and rural families shows that 37.4 percent of urban incomes come from wages and salaries, 30.5 percent from self-employment, agricultural and non-agricultural, and 42.2 percent from miscellaneous sources. In the year mentioned, 26 percent of rural incomes came from wages and salaries, 55 percent from self-employment, agricultural and non-agricultural, and 18.4 percent from miscellaneous sources.

Using the results of the statistical sampling from the 1367 census, the Iran Statistics Center announced that about 94.1 percent of the urban families sampled have running water at home, 98.7 percent have electricity, 12.7 percent have piped gas, 59.2 percent have hot baths, 45.5 percent have coolers [air conditioners], 24.3 percent have telephones, and 8.4 percent have central heat.

The result of studying the above statistics shows that in 1367 about 17.6 percent of the urban families sampled have automobiles, 12.4 percent have motorcycles, and 17.3 percent have bicycles, and these figures for the rural families sampled are 3.4 percent, 12.8 percent, and 9.7 percent respectively.

Concerning the statistical samples taken in 1367 the Iran Statistics Center announced that of the urban families about 66.5 percent have sewing machines of various kinds, 76.4 percent have televisions, 14.7 percent have freezers, about 90 percent have refrigerators, 25.2 percent have electric sweepers, and 35.5 percent have washing machines. Of the rural families, 45.4 percent have sewing machines, 7.5 percent have televisions, and 48 percent have refrigerators.

*Islamic Revolution Guards Destroy Shanties

90AS0443H London KEYHAN in Persian
30 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] Islamic Revolution Komiteh guards of Tehran District 14 destroyed shanties that had been erected at the end of Solaymaniyeh and Khavaran street and left 50 families homeless who had come to Tehran from various villages and were living in them.

Tehran sheriff's officials gave as the reason for destroying the shanties law-breaking by their residents, illicit relations, the sale of narcotics, and indigence.

*ABRAR Report on 18 Jul Majles Session

90AS0305A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 19 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] The Majles convened an open session yesterday morning and in the afternoon. In the morning session which was chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi and continued under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan, the speaker of the Majles in his remarks condemned the American Congress' support for the grouplet of Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq].

The report on yesterday's sessions, remarks by the Majles speaker and five pre-agenda speakers is as follows:

In yesterday morning's session, the single-urgency legal plan concerning the punishment of saboteurs of the economic regime of the country was the subject of discussion and study. Later a number of its articles were passed by the deputies.

According to this bill, obstructing the monetary or foreign exchange regime by acts of counterfeiting coins or bills or wholesale importing and distributing them, disturbing the distribution of essential goods—such as price gouging of foodstuff or other essentials, wholesale hoarding of foodstuff, advance purchase of large quantities of agricultural products and other products needed by the public for the purpose of creating a monopoly or shortage in supply—and disturbing the manufacturing regime of the country by wholesale abuse and unauthorized sale of technical equipment and raw materials in the free market or violation of obligations concerning technical equipment and raw materials or wholesale bribery in regard to manufacturing, obtaining manufacturing authorizations for products that may cause or be considered as deviation from national production policies will be unlawful and the culprits will be sentenced in accordance with the punishments prescribed in this law.

Also, the wholesale illegal transport of foreign exchange or national cultural inheritance or any other national wealth, having ulterior motives in the illegal transport of foreign exchange, items of cultural inheritance, or other wealths from any part of the country, although it may not result in their shipment abroad, shall be considered as smuggling and all such goods may be confiscated by the government.

The Majles Speaker's Remarks

According to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY's correspondent, during this session, Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker, referred to the message issued by 162 representatives of the American Congress to the head of the Hypocrites indicating support for this terrorist grouplet and attack on the Islamic Islamic Republic said: As we move forward, the innocence of the Islamic Republic and the justification of the anti-American and anti-imperialism positions of the revolution become more evident to the world.

He then referred to the anti-revolution and anti-Islamic activities of the Hypocrites during the year 60 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982] and the misleading of youth by members of this organization which led to the disgrace of this organization and said: Later events—their espionage connections and the dollars directly deposited in their accounts by America through the CIA [Central Intelligence Agency]—demonstrated that this organizations is connected to America and, finally, internal differences resulted in the killings of tens of its members.

The Majles speaker in another part of his remarks said: It is not clear how foolishly the representatives of the American Congress think and how far they are from realities. Such nonsensical statements may be worrisome for governments that do not enjoy the immense support of their people, but we are protected and supported by God, our dear leader, and the devoted, barefoot, deprived, and steadfast nation.

He emphasized that the threat of the American Congress holds no credence for us, and America and its Congress cannot do anything. Such moves are in our advantage and cause much pleasure for us. In fact, the American move to support the organization that caused the martyrdom of such shining figures as martyr Beheshti, Bahonar, and Raja'i and [the American] attack on the Islamic Republic better demonstrates the true nature of this country.

Concluding his remarks, the speaker of the Majles emphasized: It will be a shameful day for us when, and if, America and its Congress praise us and proclaim, for example, that Iran adheres to human rights. On such a day, we shall all weep. We feel a great pride and glory that America has such praise for an organization that has committed so many crimes.

America and its Congress, which has repeatedly supported this organization, are not worth the dirt on the boots of one of our combatants.

During yesterday's Majles session, the corrective suggestions of the deputies in regard to the legal plan for punishment of saboteurs in the economic regime of the country was discussed.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi's Remarks

Before the Majles speaker's remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, the representative of the people of Tehran in the Majles, made detailed remarks concerning the conspiracies of world arrogance and its lackeys and attempts by some, domestically and from outside the country, to move the Islamic Republic close to America.

He said: The Islamic revolution possesses an anti-world arrogance character and is locked in a deep struggle against the world-monger America. Also, the character of America is anti-Islam and anti-revolution. Any doubt in the need for continued the struggle against America is congruent with slavery to the Great Satan and loss of respect and the life that the Islamic revolution has presented to this country and all of Islamic Moslem nations.

The Great Satan is sitting in ambush to break our resolve in order to launch a concerted attack on us—along with the mass of small and large satans. It will not even have pity on those who entertain the immature thought of expansion and development under the shadow of America and who in this path are even willing to consider giving in on cultural principles.

He added: The foreigners have asserted that such talks were simply slogans which lost their color when confronted with realities. God forbid, if we fall prey to this trap—like the one who asserted that the existence of the Islamic revolution is collateral to direct negotiations with America—and consider the principles of the Islamic revolution as slogans with which may be played.

In another part of his speech, he said: Nowadays, the disregard and lack of consideration for determining the boundaries of pure Mohammadan Islam with the American [version] is a great danger that threatens the fundamentals of continuation of the revolution and the regime of the Islamic Republic. It is a futile belief to think that we can find our way to some good if we embrace capitalism. The path for growth of capitalism requires its own special economic, cultural, and social basis which is fundamentally foreign to our culture and religious beliefs. The Islamic revolution intends to build a new world on the ruins of the Satanic regime of the world rather than being dissolved in this sacrilegious and inhumane system without being able to create its own social and economic relations.

In reference to the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, Mohtashemi said: From the onset of their creation, these two international organizations had no mission other than transferring reverberations of capitalism to the Third World countries.

He added: The suggestions of these two organizations, aimed at transforming the economic systems of countries which are in need of loans, have caused the entrapment of most of the countries that welcomed such suggestion by global capitalism.

The speaker then referred to the wave of conspiracies aimed at the Islamic world—such as in Palestine, Lebanon, Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and Mecca, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, and Iraq—by global arrogance and its lackeys and emphasized that all our problems are the result of American actions. He stated that it is the duty of the Islamic Republic, revolutionary Moslems, and the Hezbollah to strike thunderously against the world-monger America in the areas under attack.

Concerning the method of formation of the Council of Experts, which enjoyed the support of Imam Khomeyni, he pointed out certain moves aimed at weakening the [Council of] Experts and, while warning against such moves, discussed his differences with his opponents.

The Saqqez and Baneh Deputy's Remarks

Mohammad 'Ali Partovi, the representative of the people of Baneh and Saqqez in the Majles, was the second pre-agenda speaker. He offered his condolences to the survivors of the recent quake and the martyrs of Mecca, and in condemnation of those responsible for the disaster of Mina said: Such crimes are committed by the orders of Imperialism that cannot bear to hear the Moslems' cries of God Is Great.

He emphasized on the resistance and steadfastness of the people present on the national scene, especially the people of Kordestan, and recounted the revolutionary and anti-arrogance activities in his constituency.

He also added: We must beware that the poisonous atmosphere has not been completely wiped out in Kordestan. It is necessary that we keep in mind the order of the late imam concerning solidarity in order to ensure the safe arrival of the ship of revolution to the harbor of prosperity and victory.

The Ramhormoz Deputy's Remarks

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad Reza Bahmani, the Ramhormoz deputy in the Majles. He pointed out that realization of the objectives, plans, and promises made to the people by officials is possible only by correct implementation of the First Economic Expansion Plan and said: With the financial potential, God-given capabilities and the people's support for the regime, if the management is not corrected and strong supervision on the implementation of law is not constituted, at the end we will certainly fail to achieve the objectives of this plan.

He asked that the president pay heed to the views of opponents, experts, and experienced specialists and added: We must not leave the fate of the nation to a bunch of abstract figures and numbers. However, priorities for capitalization must be selected.

He also asked the deputies of the Majles to support the Audit Agency in order to prevent the law-breaking of some of the officials.

In conclusion of his speech, Mr. Bahmani gave notices to the Ministries of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education and Interior concerning matters related to his constituency.

The Sari Deputy's Remarks

Ezzatollah Damadi, the representative of the people of Sari, was the fourth pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's session of the Majles. He offered his condolences on the occasion of the recent devastating earthquake in Gilan and Zanjan Provinces. He considered the presence of the leader of the revolution among the afflicted a cure for the wounds resulting from this calamity and, considering the early arrival of winter in these areas, asked the esteemed president to act decisively for the settlement of the quake survivors.

He then explained the special geographic situation of Mazandaran Province and asked that better attention be paid to the regional farmers in regard to provision of water for agricultural use.

He said: Regretfully, twelve years after the victory of the revolution, still some major part of the agricultural, meat, and dairy products are being imported. The main reason for this is incorrect economic policies. By paying more attention to the agriculture and animal husbandry of Mazandaran Province, this region is capable of fulfilling a great part of the domestic requirements.

He added: Today we can easily correct some of the national problems, especially in industry and manufacturing, with the help of the private sector. Realization of this goal is possible by utilizing specialized forces and directing the loose funds to the needed sectors.

In conclusion, he asked that more attention be paid to selection of managers and discarding shortsightedness in favor of considerations for national interests in various dimensions.

The Razan Deputy

Ahmad Rahbari, the representative of the people of Razan, Shara, and Famnin spoke as the last pre-agenda speaker. He emphasized the need for safeguarding the values of the Islamic revolution by the government and Moslem nation of Iran concerning political and international positions. He also warned against the danger of conciliation and the tendency of some so-called revolutionary countries towards America.

In another part of his remarks, he pointed out the great pressure, resulting from inflation and high prices, placed on the shoulders of the people in all social strata and considered this to be the result of unrestrained economic problems, the lack of planning for correcting the distribution system and increasing production. He called for resolution of the administrative problems and replacement of relationships with credentials.

He then thanked the Majles speaker for his trip to Hamadan Province, and by analyzing the problems and shortcomings in his constituency called for their investigation.

The open session of the Majles was recessed at noon. Continuation of the deputies' discussions was postponed to the afternoon's session.

The Afternoon Session

The Majles reconvened at 3:00 PM and was chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Karrubi. In this session, discussions concerning the legal plan for punishment of saboteurs of the national economic regime was continued.

According to our correspondent's report, also in this session the articles to the corrective law-enforcement forces bill which was returned [to the Majles] by the Council of Guardians were discussed. The corrective points were passed by the deputies.

According to this report, in the continuation of this session, which was chaired by Mr. Bayat, the continuation of the study of the plan for punishment of saboteurs of the national economic regime was continued and the remaining articles and notes of this plan were passed.

It must be noted that the Majles will go into summer recess as of 22 Jun 90 for one month [until 22 Jul]. During this period no open sessions will be held. With best wishes for the deputies.

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*Exchange of Prisoners Reportedly Faces Hurdle

*90AS0443A London KEYHAN in Persian
30 Aug 90 pp 1, 9*

[Text] The exchange of prisoners between Iran and Iraq, which was proceeding well until Saturday this week, suddenly came up against unspecified problems from the Iraqi side on Sunday, and the number of prisoners being exchanged every day began to decrease.

The reduction in the number of Iranian and Iraqi prisoners exchanged took place at a time when the Islamic Republic regime had proposed that the International Red Cross increase its resources and increase the number of prisoners exchanged. To expedite the prisoner exchange, the Islamic Republic regime had even undertaken to establish an air bridge between Tehran and

Baghdad, and had assigned a 747 jumbo jet to fly to Baghdad every day, taking with it on each flight to Baghdad 500 Iraqi prisoners and bringing 500 Iranian prisoners back into the country on the return flight, but it brought only 151 Iranian prisoners on Sunday's flight to Tehran from Baghdad. Also, from the Khosravi border crossing only 600 Iranian prisoners were delivered. The number of Iranian prisoners released at the Khosravi border crossing on Monday was so small that the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY declined to release the number, reporting only "the return of a group of released people from the Khosravi border crossing." No report was published of a flight by the Air Force 747 to Baghdad.

The sudden drop in the rate of the prisoner exchange between the two nations, which came following extraordinary optimism on the part of the leaders of the Islamic government concerning the Iraqi regime's good intentions, prompted an immediate reaction from the Islamic Republic regime.

The newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, in discussing this subject, warned Iraq not to stop the exchange of prisoners, because making difficulties in this effort would damage the future of relations between the two countries, and such a thing would be of no benefit either to the government of Iraq or to the government of Iran. The newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI wrote that it is not clear what objective the Iraqis have in decreasing the rate of the prisoner of war exchange.

After the number of Iranian prisoners being exchanged decreased on Sunday, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic immediately sent a deputy minister for international affairs to the city of Khosravi on the Iran-Iraq border to meet with his Iraqi counterpart and discuss removing the obstacles and expediting the exchange of prisoners.

The meeting between the Iraqi and Iranian deputy foreign ministers took place on Monday. Afterwards an announcement was made that the two sides had agreed "to continue the prisoner exchange and their return to Iran until the last person." The Iraqis gave the registration of the names of Iranian prisoners as the reason, saying that all the Iranian prisoners on the roster previously given to the International Red Cross had been released and returned to Iran, and now, with the release of those whose names have not been given to the International Red Cross, as they are being turned over to Red Cross officials at the Khosravi border crossing it is also necessary to prepare a roster of their names, and this is why their exchange has slowed down.

At the conclusion of the meeting between the Iranian and Iraqi deputy foreign ministers it was announced that an expert committee of representatives of Iran and Iraq and also including representatives of the International Red Cross has been formed, to supervise the proper implementation of the prisoner exchange.

A spokesman for the Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry in Tehran also announced that the Iraqis had studied their resources for releasing prisoners, and in view of the international resources and abilities of the Red Cross, they had promised that after Tuesday 1,000 prisoners would be released each day by the two sides.

Before this, it had been expected that because there were more prisoners in Iranian hands, Iraq would increase the number of prisoners exchanged each day, but for unknown reasons the opposite occurred.

The number of prisoners released through the Khosravi border crossing by Tuesday afternoon was announced as 30,000 on both sides, half of whom were Iranian prisoners in Iraq.

It is estimated that there is a combined total of 100,000 prisoners on both sides, 30,000 of whom are Iranian and the rest Iraqis or citizens of the other nations who had fought with Iraq against the Iranians.

There are currently 10 quarantine stations where the released prisoners are given the necessary medical examinations. Six of these are in the Province of Kermanshah, three are in Tehran, and one is in Esfahan. Every prisoner who is released through the Khosravi border crossing is first kept in the Kermanshah quarantine station for 48 hours for the necessary medical examinations and to have a special health certificate printed.

Political experts have considered various possible reasons for the decrease in the rate of the prisoner exchange.

One is that the international pressure on Saddam Husayn has subsided somewhat. Another is that Saddam Husayn is not happy with the Islamic Republic regime's behavior and response to the Kuwait crisis, and he did not expect each of the regime's leaders on various occasions to express his opposition to the occupation of Kuwait. The slowing of the prisoner exchange between the two countries is taking place at a time when thousands of Iranian families are expecting the arrival of a larger group of prisoners, so they may embrace their imprisoned children after years of separation.

At the same time it was announced that Iraqi forces still have not withdrawn from some occupied Iranian territory, and the reports from the Iranian Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics that Iraqi soldiers had left all occupied parts of Iran were incorrect.

Pakistan

Government 'Ready' To Send More Troops to Gulf

BK1909142490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1403 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 19 (AFP)—Pakistan is ready to send 10,000 troops to Saudi Arabia—double its current contingent—if Riyadh requests it, a senior government source said here Wednesday. Pakistan "will consider any

Saudi request" to bring the Pakistani contingent to 10,000 men or possibly more, said the source, who asked not to be named.

The idea of assembling an "Islamic force" in the Gulf was being discussed in Islamabad, he added. "We need them against India, they need us to face Saddam," he said, referring to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, whose troops invaded Kuwait on August 2.

An Armed Forces spokesman, Brigadier General Riaz Ullah, meanwhile said that Pakistan had sent 2,000 troops to Saudi Arabia since September 1 while 3,000 others were waiting to depart amid "administrative problems" in Riyadh. "We are not short of manpower. We have a large army and a large reserve," Brig. Gen. Ullah said.

Pakistan has close military ties with Saudi Arabia, which requested additional troops following Iraq's invasion of neighboring Kuwait. Interim Pakistani Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi met Saudi King Fahd last Friday during a Gulf tour. Their talks included Pakistan's difficulty in obtaining oil supplies since the invasion.

The 5,000-man contingent promised by Islamabad includes three infantry battalions, anti-tank and anti-aircraft units, engineers and communications specialists, Brig. Gen. Riaz Ullah. [sentence as received] The troops left carrying only light equipment but were provided heavy equipment by the Saudis that was "identical" to the materiel they were using in Pakistan.

The general would not say where the 2,000 Pakistanis already in Saudi Arabia had been deployed, but he said they had been integrated with other forces "under Saudi command," in line with a 1982 military protocol between the two countries. Press reports here have said more than 1,000 Pakistani military advisors and technicians were in Saudi Arabia before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, with part of the force reportedly charged specifically with protecting the royal family.

Iraq Releases Nationals Held for Illegal Entry

BK1909164190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Iraq has released 189 Pakistanis who crossed over to Iraq from Kuwait following the Gulf crisis. The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation announced in Karachi today that these Pakistanis were arrested by Iraq recently for their alleged illegal entry into Iraq. The foundation said that arrangements are being made for the repatriation of these Pakistanis who are now in Amman. Of course, two of them are still in Iraq where they are undergoing treatment.

U.S. Ambassador Calls on President, Premier

BK1909161890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Robert Oakley, U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, called on the president in Islamabad this afternoon. They exchanged views on bilateral relations and major regional and international issues. The U.S. ambassador conveyed a message of cordiality and good wishes from President Bush to the Pakistani president. Ghulam Ishaq Khan warmly reciprocated with similar feelings. The U.S. ambassador also called on Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and exchanged views with him on bilateral and regional matters.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR 19 Sep

BK1909164090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Pakistan and the Soviet Union will cooperate with each other in the fields of education, science, sports, tourism, culture and archaeology under a protocol signed in Islamabad today. The protocol is in pursuance of the 1963 agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

President Khan Departs Islamabad for Beijing

BK2009083990 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan left Islamabad this morning for Beijing on a four-day state visit to China. In a brief chat with newsmen before his departure, the president said there was no fixed agenda for his talks with Chinese leaders. Their discussions, however, would include bilateral matters, international issues, and situation in the region.

Replying to a question about the Gulf situation, he said it would also come up for discussion in their talks, on which Pakistan and China have identical stand.

Veteran Sindh Political Leader Syed Released

BK1909161690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali has said that the case against aged politician G.M. Syed has been withdrawn after a scrutiny and he has been released. This was revealed by the chief minister while talking to newsmen at Sukkur airport today.

On law and order situation in Sindh, he said that it will be maintained at any cost and law disrupting elements will be sternly dealt with. In reply to another question, he said that all like-minded groups are working together with Islami Jamhoori Ittehad for the next general election and expressed the hope that better results will be achieved this time compared to the last election. He said that he is holding talks with Muhajir Qaumi Movement also in this regard.

Cabinet Orders Energy Conservation Measures

BK1909163690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Availability and procurement of petroleum and petroleum production were reviewed by the federal cabinet at its meeting in Islamabad today. Presided over by the prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the Cabinet decided that in addition to Fridays, all petrol pumps will be closed from 2000 in the night to 0500 in the morning daily to conserve energy. However, those pumps located on national highways will be exempted from this decision.

The Cabinet also decided to issue the census bill as an ordinance to streamline the forthcoming process of census. By another decision, the Cabinet directed the auditor general to arrange for carrying out audit of the defunct People's Work Program throughout the country as soon as possible.

Sri Lanka

Colombo Reviews Operations Against LTTE

BK1809122590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The security forces conducted intensive military operations in the areas adjacent to the Jaffna Fort during the last 24 hours ending at 1200 yesterday. A Defense Ministry communique says the security forces met with resistance from the fleeing LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists mainly in the form of mines, booby traps, and explosive devices. There has been sporadic mortar fire.

It has been reported that sniper fires from the security forces killed more than 30 LTTE terrorists. Over 2,000 [figure as heard] security forces and police personnel, who were under siege in the Jaffna Fort since the 11th of June 1990, have now been relieved of their long ordeal.

The communique further says that in the Eastern Province, the security forces are mainly engaged in cordon and search operations. Clearing operations are being undertaken to keep the roads free from LTTE terrorist activities. Surprise attacks on terrorist hideouts and simultaneous strikes and skirmishes have broken the backbone of the LTTE military strategy. In search operations in the Murakkoddanchenai area, the security forces have destroyed several bunkers and underground fortifications hastily abandoned by the fleeing LTTE terrorists. Among the items recovered included canned fish, dried meat, dried vegetables, terrorist literature, and population strategy for Sri Lanka. Four fiberglass boats had been fired at by Navy patrol craft in the sea of Sangamankanda. These boats were destroyed.

The curfew which was effective in the Jaffna Peninsula has been lifted. However, according to the Joint Operations Command, it will be effective in the Jaffna AGA [Assistant Government Agent] Division.

Security Forces Overrun LTTE Bases in East

BK1909125490 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] During the 24 hours ending at 1200 yesterday, the Special Task Force and the security forces overran three major LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist bases in the Eastern Province. A Defense Ministry communique said that in one major operation, the Special Task Force attacked a LTTE terrorist base at (Tanda Vilayatpuram) in the jungles of the Amparai District. Reports revealed that the (Tanda Vilayatpuram) had many other forward bases all of which have now been completely destroyed by the Special Task Force. In one section of the LTTE base camp, there was a mini-hospital with three wards and a surgery. Forty-two weapons, including 24 T-56 automatic rifles and two light machineguns with tripods, over 1,000 KG of high explosives, over six barrels of ammunition containing more than 20,000 rounds, over 2,000 detonators, 18 fiberglass canoes, two vans, an ambulance, six lorries, one tractor and trailer and a car belonging to the assistant superintendent of police of Kalmunai and a large stock of foodstuff were recovered.

The Special Task force, who had very good information of this hideout, took the LTTE terrorists by surprise. The terrorists fled, leaving four bodies of terrorists. The Special Task Force did not suffer any casualties.

Suspected Tamil Rebels Kill 40 Sinhalese

BK2009091990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0850 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sept 20 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil rebels have massacred at least 40 Sinhalese men, women and children in northwestern Sri Lanka after raiding a fishing village there, military officials said Thursday. A military spokesman here said that suspected guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) raided the village of Vellamudal in northwestern Puttalam late Wednesday.

He said the report on the massacre was based on information provided by survivors who said that some 30 armed men attacked the village 48 kilometers (30 miles) northwest of Puttalam town at dusk. According to six survivors the attackers, all dressed in black uniforms, used automatic weapon, swords and knives to kill their victims, members of Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority.

"The attackers were most probably LTTE men because no other armed group is operating in the area," the spokesman said, adding "they would have come from the

Wilpattu jungles." The LTTE, which is fighting a separatist war with government troops in the Tamil-dominated northeast, is known to have several camps in the Wilpattu jungles in Puttalam where a popular wildlife sanctuary is located.

The Wilpattu sanctuary, well known for its leopards and elephants, has been used by the Tamil tigers to launch ambushes on security forces in the area which lies outside the Tamil-majority northern province. Military officials here said that the troops destroyed some of the LTTE camps in Wilpattu during a major army offensive that was launched shortly after fighting broke out between government forces and the LTTE on June 11.

"We believe they still have some camps there," an official said. The spokesman quoted four of the survivors as saying they fled to the closest army camp, eight kilometers (five miles) from the village, while the other two, both wounded, were picked up from a boat by the navy.

The LTTE has been accused of massacring hundreds of Sinhalese civilians from 1983 during their bloody campaign to set up an independent homeland in the northeast for the Tamils, who are in the minority in Sri Lanka as a whole. Thousands have died in Sri Lanka since the ethnic conflict broke out in July 1983 between the Sinhalese and Tamils.

Wednesday's carnage is the first reported killing of Sinhalese civilians by the rebels since the slaughter of some 57 villagers in 24 hours ending August 8 in two separate incidents in the northeast. Observers here said the latest attack appeared to be a retaliation by the Tigers for the army's current offensive against the rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula in which several LTTE cadres are reported to have died.

Colombo accused the LTTE of killing more than 200 Moslem civilians in eastern Sri Lanka in August in order to divert the army's attention away from its intensified military operations against the militants in the north. Nearly 4,200 people have died since renewed violence broke out in the northeast in June.